



# **INDIAN RECORDS SERIES**

**GENERAL EDITOR    K D BHARGAVA**



Grant of *Dargam* by Emperor Shah Alam

INDIAN RECORDS SERIES

FORT WILLIAM—INDIA HOUSE  
CORRESPONDENCE

AND OTHER CONTEMPORARY PAPERS  
RELATING THERETO

(PUBLIC SERIES)

VOL IV 1764-1766

EDITED BY  
C S SRINIVASACHARI





## GENERAL EDITOR'S PREFACE

The work of editing the present volume in the series *Fort William—India House Correspondence* was entrusted to Prof C S Srinivasachari of the Annamalai University, the eminent historian who later became Principal of Pachaiyappa's College at Kancheepuram. His sad demise in 1951 prevented him from completing the work, which had therefore to be done in the Department. The volume covers the letters to and from the Court of Directors in the Public Department during the period 1764-66. However, a few relevant letters from and to the Governors as well as the Select Committee at Fort William in the original series have been included with a view to maintaining continuity.

In editing the text all available copies have been carefully compared from the point of view of veracity of fact and accuracy of language, and readings which seemed more suitable have been chosen. With regard to the use of capital letters and punctuation the text has been modernised to a certain extent for quick and easy reading, but such changes have been reduced to the barest minimum. Superior letters have been brought down and full stops added to facilitate printing. Correct readings considered essential for the elucidation of the text have been given in square brackets.

My thanks are due to the Director General of Archaeology, Government of India, for supplying photographic copies of illustrations available in various institutions and to the trustees of the Victoria Memorial Hall, Calcutta, the publishers of *Bengal Past and Present*, the Commonwealth Relations Office, London, and the Government of Madras, for permission to utilise the paintings and portraits from their collections.

I am grateful to the staff of the Publication Branch of the National Archives of India, particularly to Miss D G Keswani and Messrs D L Kaka and N H Kulkarni, who have spared no efforts to bring out the volume in its present form.

*National Archives of India,  
New Delhi,  
2 July 1962*

K D BHARGAVA  
*Director of Archives,  
Government of India*



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Shujaud Daulah

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*(From a painting at Raj Bhawan Gundy Madras. Reproduced with the permission of the Government of Madras.)*

*By the courtesy of the Department of Archaeology Government of India*

## CHAIRMEN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMEN OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY\*

<i>Period</i>	<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Deputy Chairman</i>
April 1763—March 1764	Dorrien, John	Sullivan, Laurence
April 1764—March 1765	Rous, Thomas	Boulton, Henry Crabb
April 1765—March 1766	Boulton, Henry Crabb	Dudley, George
April 1766—March 1767	Dudley, George	Rous, Thomas

## DIRECTORS OF THE EAST INDIA COMPANY

1764-66

Amyand, George	1760, 1763-64
Baron, Christopher	1759, 1761-64, 1766-67
Barrington, Fitzwilliam	1759, 1761-62, 1765-67
Barwell, William	1753-59, 1761-64, 1766
Boulton, Henry Crabb	1753-61, 1763-65, 1767-70, 1772-73
Boyd, John	1753-61, 1763-64
Browne, John	1757-60, 1762-64
Burrow, Robert	1762-64
Chambers, Charles	1755-57, 1763-66, 1768
Creswicke, Joseph	1765-68
Cruttenden, Edward Holden	1765-68, 1770-71
Cuming, George	1764-67, 1769-72, 1773-77, 1779-82, 1785-87
Cutts, Charles	1749-54, 1758-61, 1763-66
Dorrien, John	1755-58, 1760-64
DuCane, Peter, Jr	1753-54, 1764, 1766-69, 1771-73
Dudley, George	1757-60, 1762, 1764-67, 1770-71
DuPré, Josias	1765-66
Hadley, Henry	1757-60, 1762-65
Harrison, John	1758-61, 1763-66, 1768-71, 1773-77, 1779-82
Jones, Robert	1754-57, 1765-68
Manship, John	1755-58, 1762-65, 1767, 1769-72, 1773-77, 1779-82, 1784-87, 1789-92, 1794-97, 1799- 1802, 1804-07, 1809

\* The particulars given here and in the following lists are based on the correspondence contained in this and other volumes of the series, C C Prinsep's *Records of Services of the Honourable East India Company's Civil Servants in the Madras Presidency, 1741-1858* (London, 1885), *Alphabetical List of Directors of the East India Company from 1758 to 1858*, compiled by C H and D Philips and published in the *Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society*, October 1941, and *List of the Heads of Administrations in India and of the India Office in England* (Imperial Record Department, 1939)

Pardoe, John	1765-66.
Pigou Frederick	1758-61 1763-66, 1768-71 1773-77
Purling John	1763-66, 1768-71 1777-80
Roberts John	1764-67 1769-72, 1775-76 1780-83 1785-88 1790-93 1795-99 1800-03 1805-08
Rooke, Giles	1758-61 1763-64
Rous Thomas	1745-53 1755 1757-58 1760-62, 1764-67 1770-71
Saunders Thomas	1758 1765-67
Savage Henry	1755-58 1760-62, 1764-67 1770-77 1779-82.
Scrifton Luke	1765-68
Smith Richard	1759-62, 1764
Snell William	1742-64 1767-69
Stephenson John	1765-68
Sullivan Laurence	1755-58 1760-61 1763-64 1769 1771-72, 1778-81 1783-85
Thornton William	1759 1761-64
Tullie Timothy	1750-58 1760-64
Warner Richard	1760-64
Webber William	1762-65
Wheler Edward	1765-68 1770-76
Wombwell George	1766-68 1775-78 1780

# GOVERNORS OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT WILLIAM BENGAL

1764-66

Vansittart Henry	21 July 1760—3 December 1764
Spencer John	3 December 1764—3 May 1765
Clive Rt. Hon. Baron Robert	3 May 1765—29 January 1767

# MEMBERS OF BOARD FORT WILLIAM BENGAL

1764-66

Aldersey William	1764-74	
Billers William	1763-65	
Burdett John	1763-65	
Cornac John	1760-67	Also a member of the Select Committee
Carter John	1761-72	
Clive Robert	1757-60 1765-67	Also a member of the Select Committee
Flower Charles	1766-71	
Gray George	1765	
Hastings Warren	1761-64 1765-66	

The year meant next up in the names of the members of the Board, be and be  
was the entire terms of their membership

Johnstone, John	1761-65	
Kelsall, Thomas	1766-71	
Leycester, Ralph	1764-65	
Marriott, Randolph	1764-66	
Middleton, Samuel	1764-66, 1770-72	
Playdell, Charles Stafford	1758-59, 1763-66	
Rumbold, Thomas	1766-69	
Russell, Claud	1766-71	
Senior, Ascanius William	1764-65	
Spencer, John	1764-65	
Sumner, William Brightwell	1757-60, 1765-66	Also a member of the Select Committee
Sykes, Francis	1765-69	Also a member of the Select Committee
Vansittart, Henry	1760-64	
Verelst, Harry	1760-69	Also a member of the Select Committee
Watts, Hugh	1762-66	

## GOVERNOR OF THE PRESIDENCY OF FORT ST GEORGE

1764-66

Palk, Robert	14 November 1763—25 January 1767
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## GOVERNOR OF THE PRESIDENCY OF BOMBAY

1764-66

Crommelin, Charles	28 February 1760—27 January 1767
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## INTRODUCTION

The years 1764-66 covered by this volume of correspondence between the Board at Fort William and the Court of Directors in London, witnessed some of the most striking events in the history of the British empire in India. Published for the first time *in extenso*, these records combine the most significant information with faithful pictures of the greater England that came to birth in the second half of the 18th century. Clive's victories in Bengal had transformed the position of the English East India Company in India. From a mere trading body it had acquired the status of a political power, responsible for the government of a very large population spread over an immense area, and Indian chiefs vied with and betrayed one another in order to ingratiate themselves with the colossus that they had helped to create. Gradually, through diverse experiments, the Company built up its political, social and economic institutions. The power of the Mughal had already begun to totter, and the extent of the imperial authority was continuously reduced until at length it prevailed nowhere except in Delhi and its immediate environment. The sovereign of the empire whose friendship and alliance the first potentates of Europe had courted and to whom they had sent respectful embassies, humbly beseeching his protection for their subjects trading in his dominions, was now a mere pageant of royalty. The Nawab of Bengal was a pensioner of state, a stipend enjoying figure-head for the use of the servants of the East India Company.

But the unstable and shifting political situation that had ensued as a result of the military power of the Company and the talents and character of Robert Clive, assumed critical proportions when the control passed to weaker hands. The appointment of Henry Vansittart, a Madras civilian of 14 years standing, irritated the members of the Bengal Council who considered the governorship as belonging to them of right. They, therefore, set themselves to thwart his measures at a time when exigencies of administration required the greatest unanimity. Grossly neglecting the directives of the Governor and the interests of the Company, they devoted all their energies to enriching themselves at the expense of the so-called rulers of Bengal. Macaulay has described the misgovernment which followed the departure of Clive in 1760. "At every one of these revolutions (change of Nawabs), the new prince divided among his foreign masters whatever could be scraped together from the treasury of his fallen predecessor. The immense population of his dominions was given up as a prey to those who had made him a sovereign, and who could unmake him. The servants of the Company obtained, not for their employers, but for themselves, a monopoly of almost the whole internal trade. Every servant of a British factor was armed with all the power of his master, and his master was armed with all the power of the Company. Enormous fortunes were thus rapidly accumulated at Calcutta, while thirty millions of human beings were reduced to the extremity of wretchedness"<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Critical and Historical Essays* (1850), p. 521

The Proprietors of the Company saw with dismay their dreams of prosperity vanishing. Fresh military victories were won at Buxar in 1764 the power of Nawab Vazir Shujaud Daulah of Oudh was crushed and his dominions were partitioned. But the proprietors seemed to gain no new dividend from this continuous aggrandizement. There arose, therefore, a demand for the reappointment of Clive as the only man competent to cope with this situation. This volume covers Clive's second administration from May 1765 to December 1766.

### *Mir Qasim*

After Plassey Clive installed Mir Jafar as Nawab but on the plea of alleged maladministration and treachery he was replaced by his son in law Mir Qasim. The new Nawab who was ambitious and rather hot headed was not slow to discover that the abuses of which his predecessor had complained had not ceased to exist. In fact there could be no stability in Bengal so long as the Nawab considered himself as an independent ruler and the English claimed privileges wholly inconsistent with such sovereignty. The exemption from duties demanded by the Company's servants for their private trade and the insolence of their *gumashitas* and other Indian agents provided numerous occasions for friction and an open rupture between Mir Qasim and the English seemed imminent and inevitable. Complaints and counter-complaints fast multiplied. The Nawab protested that the gomastahs of the English gentlemen have set up the trade of salt tobacco dried fish tumbers &c and purchase from the country people by force and extortion and are continually making unjust disputes and wrangling with my officers so that the poor the inhabitants the merchants and manufacturers of my country are oppressed and both you and myself are troubled with unjust vexations." The Court of Directors also believed that Mir Qasim had just cause for complaint "the conduct and behaviour of many of our servants have been inconsistent with their duty to and detrimental to the interest of the Company in a variety of instances which too glaringly appear upon the face of your said registers, particularly with respect to the present *Subah* of Bengal Cossim Aly Khan with whom it is most evident the strictest friendship and harmony ought to have been cultivated instead whereof he and his government have met with so much improper and injurious treatment and been defrauded in his revenues by the licentious trade of our said servants and the agents acting under and countenanced by them, to so great a degree that we dread the consequences." Vansittart also had been of the same opinion and in 1767 visited Mir Qasim at Monghyr to reach an amicable settlement on the points at issue. The Nawab urged the total abolition of the inland private trade of the English. Vansittart agreed that they had no right to it under the imperial *farman* but was loth to surrender an advantage which had been enjoyed by the Company's servants for over five years. Finally a compromise was reached. the import and export trade of the Company was to be exempted from duties but the Company's *dastak* would not be valid for inland trade. Duties were to be paid on all goods of inland trade at the fixed rate of 9% on the prime cost at the places where the goods were

provided Any disputes arising out of this arrangement were to be heard and determined by the Nawab's officers

The Court of Directors appreciated Vansittart's good intentions in reaching this agreement,<sup>4</sup> but of greater immediate significance was the opposition and hostility of the Calcutta Council Vansittart in concluding the settlement with Mir Qasim had not taken any one into his confidence except the young Councillor Warren Hastings who had accompanied him to Monghyr, and the majority viewed it with rancour and hostility They rejected the Governor's regulations and decided that although the English were entitled by the *farman* to trade in country produce duty-free, the Nawab could be allowed a 2½ per cent duty on salt only, and that the *gumashtas* of the English would not be subject to the jurisdiction of the Nawab's officials But in the meantime Mir Qasim, without waiting for general orders to be issued, had divulged the plan to his officers who started tyrannizing over the Company's *gumashtas* The Company's servants, on the other hand, resisted these demands for payment of the duties fixed by Vansittart unless they were instructed by the Council to do so and sought to protect their trade even by resorting to force The Nawab, finding that Vansittart's orders were either evaded or disobeyed and that his representations produced no effect, became indignant and impatient "If the English *gomashtahs* will carry on their trade, according to the custom practised by other merchants, it is well If not, I have no resource, but to make use, as you do, of expressions tending to dissolve our friendship My reputation and honour are dearer to me than life If you are inclined to let friendship subsist between us, you ought to lay aside these disturbances and altercations, which must produce a rupture, and if you are inclined to break with me, let me know it immediately, that I may have nothing further to do with these things, for I can bear them no longer"<sup>5</sup> In desperate retaliation he resolved to abolish all duties for two years on all goods of all merchants, insisted on the removal of English troops from Patna and detained six boats laden with muskets for that place The Government at Fort William looked upon the conduct of the Nawab as an open declaration of war, and Ellis, the Chief of Patna factory, brought the question to the arbitrament of the sword by his roughly planned and ill-conducted attack on Patna on 25 June 1763 Mir Qasim had recently taken great pains, in view of such a contingency, to recruit soldiers and discipline them and he welcomed Ellis's attack "Exult not upon the success which you have gained merely by treachery and night assaults By the will of God, you shall see in what manner this shall be revenged and retaliated"<sup>6</sup>

The President and Council decided to depose Mir Qasim and concluded a treaty with Mir Jafar on 10 July 1763 reinstating him in the *subahdari* of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa The Court of Directors welcomed this decision<sup>7</sup> War was declared against Mir Qasim and prosecuted with the utmost vigour Major Adams advanced to Murshidabad and within four months inflicted on Mir Qasim a series of defeats at Katwa, Gheria, Sooty and Udanala The hard-pressed Nawab fled to Patna and in a wanton spirit of rage and revenge

<sup>4</sup> P 8

<sup>5</sup> Vansittart, *op cit*, pp 57-8

<sup>6</sup> Mir Qasim to Maj Adams, 9 September 1763, Vansittart, *op cit*, p 369

<sup>7</sup> P 43



put to death all his English prisoners including Ellis his inveterate enemy. His Indian chieftains refused to undertake this criminal commission but the notorious European adventurer Walter Reinhardt (alias Samru) personally supervised the butchery. But Patna was captured on 6 November and Mir Qasim was hunted out of his dominions. On 5 December he crossed the Karamnasa and sought refuge in Oudh.

### *Shujaud Daulah*

Shujaud Daulah the Nawab Vazir of Oudh was an ambitious ruler. At this time neutrality had no place in his policy and he took the keenest interest in the struggles that were going on around him. The Mughal Emperor Shah Alam after an unsuccessful bid to recover his throne had sought the Nawab Vazir's support, and the latter decided to utilize him as a tool for the prosecution of his own designs. Shah Alam wrote the Calcutta Council "will never be in possession of his capital nor of any real authority. All remittances said to be made to the King are in truth so much money thrown into the hands of Shuja Dowla to be employed perhaps against the very person that gave it."<sup>1</sup>

Now Mir Qasim had come to Allahabad with the remnant of his defeated army. Shujaud Daulah had no hope of getting Bihar from the English. He therefore pledged his support and assistance to Mir Qasim and the terms of alliance were speedily settled. Thereupon both the English and the new allies prepared for war.

It seemed however that the Company's army was in no mood for battle. Since Plassey military service in Bengal had been an extremely profitable proposition and a spirit of insubordination and licentiousness was rampant. Indeed early in 1764 a dangerous mutiny appeared to be brewing.<sup>2</sup> A further disadvantage was the apparent want of energy and enterprise manifested by the new commander Major Carnac. Rather than carry the war into Shujaud Daulah's territory he decided to await an attack. This policy though later commended by the Directors<sup>3</sup> was acceptable neither to the army nor to the Council at Calcutta<sup>4</sup> and against his will Carnac was goaded to advance. On 3 May a desultory battle with no consequence was fought at Lanch Pahari near Patna.<sup>5</sup> The army was anxious to pursue Shujaud Daulah and turn this repulse into a complete rout but was restrained. The Nawab Vazir salvaged all his equipment and retreated to Buxar. Thus ended a barren campaign which though marked by no positive disaster reflect little credit on its commanding officer.

Several overtures were now made to secure an accommodation though not directly by Shujaud Daulah himself. The Emperor expressed his willingness to mediate. But the English refused to negotiate until Mir Qasim and Samru were surrendered to them. But Shujaud Daulah refused to hand them over and insisted on the cession of Bihar before he would listen to any

terms the English might dictate So both sides once more prepared themselves for a trial of strength

The Board at Fort William was informed that Shujaud-Daulah was planning to invade their territories and, realising that his enthusiasm was born of Carnac's timid leadership in the last campaign, transferred the command to Major Munro Scarcely had Munro joined when the sepoy battalions displayed in a worse form those signs of mutiny which had been earlier repressed with great difficulty Munro believed that the situation warranted summary and drastic action He pursued and arrested all the sepoys who had marched off with their arms demanding increase of pay and prize money, selected about thirty of the leading mutineers, had them tried by the field court-martial and, when they were found guilty and sentenced to death, had them blown off from guns This ended all efforts at mutiny and desertion, and, within four months on 6 October, Munro felt himself strong enough to lead his troops against the Nawab Vazir at Buxar Jealousy and intrigue were rife in the rival camp Shah Alam, who brought to the allied cause little more than the halo of his imperial title, was no better than a prisoner, and made several offers to come to terms with the English Mir Qasim was in an even worse plight The Nawab Vazir treated him with marked and studied insolence, he was robbed and confined in prison On 22 October, when the English force arrived at Buxar, Shujaud-Daulah released him, provided him with a lame elephant and dismissed him But a man of courage and some military skill, there was no reason why Shujaud-Daulah should not have given a good account of himself against Munro's comparatively small force Impatient of delay, however, he resolved to attack and this proved his undoing The action began at 9 o'clock on 23 October and by noon all was over The allied armies were routed and Shujaud-Daulah abandoned all his stores and equipment A fearful scene of carnage ensued In the last struggle for life "so many perished that at last a bridge, three hundred yards long, was formed of their bodies over which the survivors escaped"<sup>13</sup>

### *The Aftermath of Buxar*

At Buxar both the Nawab Vazir and the Company were playing for high stakes Shujaud-Daulah risked his entire dominion, which stretched from Saharanpur to the Karamnasa, in an effort to snatch the fertile provinces of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa For the English defeat would have meant the end of their rule in this part of India, as it was, they found themselves undisputed masters of the entire country up to Allahabad Buxar completed the process begun at Plassey seven years before The English were now one of the most important powers in India, the Nawab Vazir's power was completely reduced, Mir Qasim ceased to be a political force and Shah Alam had sought the Company's protection

Paralysed by the unexpected defeat, Shujaud-Daulah was anxious to come to terms But the English declared the surrender of Mir Qasim and Samru to be an indispensable preliminary<sup>14</sup> The Nawab Vazir still had sufficient sense of honour to look on such a surrender of those who had sought

<sup>13</sup> Col G B Malleson, *Decisive Battles of India* (1914), pp 204-5.

<sup>14</sup> p 263

refuge with him as an act of infamy<sup>15</sup> Moreover Mir Qasim was by now beyond his reach. This luckless person had managed to escape on the lame elephant and after an unbroken series of misfortunes ended his days in extreme poverty near Delhi in 1777<sup>16</sup> As for Samru the Nawab Vazir offered to invite him to an entertainment and to have him assassinated in the presence of the English. This certainly was a less honourable alternative to surrender and the English indignantly rejected the offer. Instead they agreed not to insist on the surrender of Mir Qasim and Samru provided Shujaud Daulah himself punished them by ordering a public execution.<sup>17</sup> Samru however fearing such a fate, fled while it was yet possible.

Meantime Shujaud Daulah retired to Allahabad sought to rally his forces and beseeched several influential chieftains for help. Munro, expecting a second engagement broke up the siege of Chunar which had been undertaken by a detachment under Major Pemble and took up new positions at Benares. He soon however quit the command to embark for Europe and Major Fletcher temporarily took charge in January 1765. Fletcher laid siege to Allahabad and Chunar and captured them in February. Thus all strong holds of the Nawab Vazir were in the possession of the English. This completely damped the ardour of his soldiers and subjects. Many of the troops deserted the whole country submitted without any further attempt at resistance and the Nawab Vazir sought refuge among the Rohillas. But still undaunted he sought new alliances and in the company of Imadul Mulk the ex Vazir of Farrukhabad and Malhar Rao Holkar advanced to Kora. Once more however on 3 May 1765 the Company's forces gained the day and the three chiefs were compelled to fall back. Shujaud Daulah now capitulated and the Council at Fort William was not disinclined to come to reasonable terms. The preliminaries of a treaty were settled but ratification was postponed pending the arrival of Clive. On 3 May 1765 Clive assumed charge as Governor for the second time and the negotiations were finally concluded in the form of a treaty at Allahabad on 16 August 1765.

By this treaty of Allahabad Shujaud Daulah was given back all his territories with the exception of the two districts of Kora and Allahabad which were reserved for the Emperor. Clive justified this action as proceeding more from the policy of not extending the Company's territorial possessions than from the generous principle of attaching Shah Alam for ever by gratitude to the Company's interest.<sup>18</sup> The English forces were to be withdrawn from the Vazir's dominions but a defensive alliance was to be formed between the Company and the Nawab Vazir and the Nawab of Bengal. In consideration of the large expenditure incurred by the Company during the war Shujaud Daulah exempted it from the payment of duties on trade throughout his kingdom. He further agreed to pay to the Company a war indemnity of fifty lakhs of rupees. The surrender of Mir Qasim and Samru was no longer in his power but he agreed not to receive them.

The treaty of 1765 forms a landmark in the history of Oudh. It closed a prolonged and bloody struggle and began a period of lasting peace. Though

Shujaud-Daulah was formally recognized as an equal power, he became in fact a subordinate and protected ally. None of his successors dared to defy the British might and Oudh remained a subservient state till it was further emasculated by Lord Wellesley in 1803 and finally extinguished by Lord Dalhousie in 1856. Clive's settlement, which laid the foundation of all future relations with Oudh, was the most permanent achievement of his second administration.

### *Mir Jafar and the Diwani*

In July 1763, as we have seen, the Company recalled Mir Jafar, now 72 years of age and scarcely able to move, from his retirement and restored him to the *masnad* of Bengal. In return Mir Jafar not only guaranteed to the Company all its former rights and privileges but also conceded exemption from all duties except the  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent duty on salt which the Company's servants voluntarily agreed to pay, and promised as a war indemnity thirty lakhs of rupees to the Company and large donations to the army and navy, and restitution money to private merchants. The last stipulations shocked the Directors who condemned their servants' unbounded thirst after riches. "Indeed when we consider the present state of the country involved for years past in continual wars, and drained of its riches and the blood of its inhabitants, it is impossible for us to suppose our own servants capable of adding so greatly to its miseries, by compelling or even persuading the Nabob to pay such exorbitant sums of money, and at a time when by all accounts he is himself in the greatest distress"<sup>19</sup> Mir Jafar, restored on such conditions, was naturally at the mercy of the English. He was brought down to Calcutta on 3 September 1764 and was ordered to contribute five lakhs of rupees per month so long as the Company found itself at war with Mir Qasim and Shujaud-Daulah. As for the Company's servants, they demanded for themselves at first twenty lakhs, then raised the demand to forty lakhs, and finally fixed it at forty-eight lakhs. "The effrontery exhibited during these five years of crime makes one blush for the honour of England"<sup>20</sup>

On the death of Mir Jafar in February 1765 the question of appointing his successor arose. Such selections of the rulers of Bengal formed one of the most lucrative occupations of the Board at Fort William. In return for the payment of twelve lakhs of rupees by way of presents and the exemption of the inland trade from all duties the Governor Spencer and his Council enthroned Mir Jafar's eldest son, Najmud-Daulah.

But other changes followed the victory at Buxar and the arrival of Clive. Immediately after the battle the Emperor Shah Alam commenced negotiations with the English and the Calcutta Council transferred to him Shujaud-Daulah's kingdom provided he conferred on the Company the *zamindari* of Ghazipur and Benares with the same rights and in as full a manner as it had been held by Shujaud-Daulah and met all the expenses of the war from the time of his joining the English.<sup>21</sup> But Clive, soon after taking charge, unceremoniously discarded the settlement. Instead he

<sup>19</sup> P. 98

<sup>20</sup> J. C. Marshman, *History of India*, Vol. I, p. 307

<sup>21</sup> Pp. 291-2, W. Bolts, *Considerations on India Affairs*, Appendix, pp. 21-2

compelled Shah Alam in return for the two districts of Allahabad and Kora and the payment of an annual sum of twenty-six lakhs of rupees for his expenses and the support of his dignity to confer the *Dixani* of Bengal Bihar and Orissa on the Company and to confirm the grants of lands to the Company and of a *jagir* to himself by the former Nawabs.

The *Dixani* connoted the superintendence of the lands and revenue collections and he who held this office was second only to the Nawab Vazir in the administration of the Mughal Empire. The *Dixan* was appointed by the Emperor and was wholly independent of the *Nazim* or Nawab who had no legal right to interfere in the management of the revenues. The Select Committee explained to the Court of Directors that the *Dixani* involved the collection of all the revenues and after defraying the expenses of the army and allowing sufficient funds for the support of the *Aizamat* the remittance of the remainder to the Emperor.<sup>22</sup>

It was in 1758 when the reputation of the Company stood high among the country powers that the Mughal Emperor first offered to vest them with the responsibility of collecting the revenues of the *subah* of Bengal amounting to over two hundred and fifty lakhs. "Such a dignity" wrote the Fort William authorities to the Directors "annexed to your Presidency would give extraordinary weight to the Company in the Empire which nothing could be able to remove however though repeated proposals have been made to the President yet at this critical conjunction he has been under the necessity of evading them."<sup>23</sup> Shah Alam repeated his offer of the *Dixani* in 1761 and 1763 but the Company fearing the ill will of the Nawab and the other European powers in Bengal declined. The Court of Directors expressed their approval.<sup>24</sup> But in 1765 circumstances had greatly changed. The entire control of the provinces had devolved upon the British and the office of the *Dixani* seemed to offer a perennial source of revenue. Clive also believed that this open acceptance of responsibility would rid the Company's Government of corruption and place the administration on a stable footing.<sup>25</sup> As for the extension of the scope of the Company's authority Clive was realistic enough to see that it was inevitable. "Assure yourself that the Company must either be what they are or be annihilated."<sup>26</sup> Clive also believed that as the *Dixani* in theory conferred no sovereign authority foreign governments would and could take no umbrage. But whatever the legal position the fact remained that the *farrman* of August 1765 placed the seal on British supremacy in Bengal and for the first time gave a body of traders the legal status of a power in India. Burke truly remarked when he heard of this transaction that it was "the great act of constitutional entrance of the Company into the body politic of India. It gave to the settlement of Bengal a fixed constitutional form with a legal title acknowledged and recognized now for the first time by all the natural powers of the country because it came from the charter of the undoubted sovereign."<sup>27</sup> While Shah Alam had no practical

<sup>22</sup> Select Committee's Letter to Court, 10 September 1758, para.

Fort W. Lums. *India House Correspondence*, Vol. II, p. 371.

Public General Letter to Court, 1 November 1761, para. 55. General Letter to Court, 9 March 1763, para. 55.

<sup>23</sup> Select Committee's Letter to Court, 10 September 1758, para. 1.

<sup>24</sup> J. N. Malcolm, *Life of Robert Lord Clive*, Vol. II, p. 361.

<sup>25</sup> George Vertue, *Th. Life of Lord Clive*, Vol. II, p. 62.

authority in Bengal and was giving away what was not really his to give, some value attached to the imperial *farman*. And the Directors, now willing to exercise power and dominion, approved of Clive's settlement and accepted the *Diwani*. "when we consider that the barrier of the country government was entirely broke down and every Englishman throughout the country armed with an authority that owned no superior and exercising his power to the oppression of the helpless natives who knew not whom to obey, at such a crisis we cannot hesitate to approve your obtaining the *Dezwannee* for the Company"<sup>28</sup>

The functions of the *Diwani* were exercised on behalf of the Company by their Resident at Murshidabad *Darbar* who acted as the collector of the King's revenues, under the inspection and control of the Select Committee at Fort William. The Nawab *Nazim* consented to accept Rs. 5,386,131-9-0 every year as an adequate allowance for the support of the *Nizamat*,<sup>29</sup> but the Directors insisted that the Company's authority should extend to nothing beyond the superintendence of the revenue collections and the receipt of the Nawab's payments. "The administration of justice, the appointment to offices, *zemindaries*, in short, whatever comes under the denomination of civil administration, we understand, is to remain in the hands of the Nabob or his ministers"<sup>30</sup>. It was also not thought prudent, either by the Council at Fort William or by the Directors, to vest the immediate management of the revenues in English hands. This had been tried in the provinces ceded by Mir Qasim but the experiment had proved a failure. European collectors had little knowledge of the country and its civil institutions and their appointment only served to rouse jealousy among Indian and European powers. So Clive recommended the exclusive employment of Indians as both most convenient and least invidious. Muhammad Riza Khan was appointed *Najib Dikan* in 1765 and served in this capacity for seven years. He was already the *Najib Nazim*, and lest he should abuse this concentration of powers, he was advised to relinquish the charge of the *Nazim* and was associated in the work of the *Dikan* with Raja Durlabhram and the banker Khushal Chund Jaisa Seth, while the Resident at Murshidabad was instructed to exercise vigilant supervision.

The entire country was regarded as an estate and a source of profit, to the East India Company. A statement of revenues and expenses of Bengal in the first six years after the grant of the *Durani* reveals that nearly one-third of the net annual revenues of Bengal was remitted to England.<sup>23</sup> In addition there was the payment by Indian rulers for military services, donations to the army, compensation to individuals and the savings of the Company's servants. Private fortunes were remitted by bills on the English and foreign companies. This method of transferring wealth to England led to an enormous increase of exports over imports. Verelst has computed the figures for 1766-68 as imports of bullion by European companies—£624,375 exports of commodities and bullion—£6,311,250. There was also the export of bullion in considerable quantity to British settlements in China and elsewhere. During the years 1757-66 this drain amounted to over 8 million pounds sterling.<sup>24</sup> The loss of bullion particularly of silver led to an alarming scarcity of coin.<sup>25</sup> But the Directors, apparently believing that the riches of Bengal were limitless, paid no heed and this naturally impoverished the province and brought it almost to the brink of disaster.

Administratively the dual system resulted in the total instability of the Nawab's Government. The collectors of revenue were responsible not to him but to the Company and the army too was under them in their capacity as the authorities responsible for the defence of the provinces. So the *Nizamat* deprived of soldiery lacked the necessary sanctions to enforce its criminal jurisdiction. On the other hand the Company refused to accept responsibility not only for the criminal jurisdiction but even for the conduct of the civil courts which till then had been generally accepted as part of the *Durani*.<sup>26</sup> The dual system in fact came to mean in practice the abandonment of all control of the machinery of government. A whole horde of *zamindars*, *amils*, *qanungos*, *mutasaddis* and other minor officials were let loose to raise what they pleased from the cultivators and traders. If the victims appealed to the Nawab, he had no officers through whom he could enforce justice; if the complaints were referred to the Company's Resident at Murshidabad, he had no means of ascertaining how far they were genuine. All told, Richard Becher, Resident at the *Darbar*, had much cause for believing that within four years of the grant of the *Durani*, "this fine Country which flourished under the most despotic and arbitrary Government is verging towards its Ruin while the English have really so great a share in the Administration."<sup>27</sup> But Clive still refused to associate responsibility with authority and felt it very necessary to preserve "the present appearance of the Nawab's power."

### Clive's Jagir

Cognate with the grant of the *Durani* was the question of Clive's *jagir* which in the years 1764-66 aroused a great deal of controversy both in England

<sup>23</sup> See the Fourth Report of the Committee of Secretaries appointed by the House of Commons, 1761.

<sup>24</sup> H. Verelst, *A View of the English Government in Bengal* (1762), p. 10, and Appendix, pp. 116.

<sup>25</sup> p. 111.

<sup>26</sup> pp. 181-4.

<sup>27</sup> See Committee Report, p. 2, 1, 1, 2.





right to the *jagir* on a permanent tenure and when Clive suggested that it suited him better to secure a tenure of ten years if he lived so long they readily agreed.<sup>42</sup> The authorities in India were informed that all former orders regarding the *jagir* were cancelled and all sums of money which had been retained in consequence of those orders should be paid to Clive on his arrival or in the meantime to his attorneys.<sup>43</sup>

There is no doubt that in accepting the Presidentship Clive was as much motivated by the possibility of safeguarding his *jagir* against all future attacks as by the need to re-establish order in Bengal.<sup>44</sup> When he reached a settlement with Shih Alam he took care to secure along with the grant of the *Dreami* to the Company the confirmation of his own *jagir*. The wording of the *farman* was obviously his for it synchronizes with the terms of his agreement with the Court of Directors: the said Purgannahs are confirmed as an unconditional jagueer to the High and Mighty aforesaid from the 16th May of the 1764th year of the Christian stile to the expiration of 10 years they shall appertain as an unconditional jagueer to the High and Mighty aforesaid and after the expiration of this term to revert to the Company as an unconditional jagueer and perpetual gift and if the High and Mighty aforesaid should die within the said term they shall revert to the Company immediately upon his death.<sup>45</sup> Under this grant Clive would receive 222,958 *sikka* rupees annually for ten years commencing from 5 May 1764.<sup>46</sup>

### *Conduct of the Company's Servants*

Ever since the ascendancy of the English in the administration of Bengal the servants of the Company broke all rules of restraint with impunity and openly engaged in the internal trade of the country. References to such misconduct on their part form a continuous chain in this correspondence. These Englishmen had come out to India imbued for the most part with the sole idea of amassing as much wealth as possible in the shortest time possible. Their outlook and training were wholly commercial. Private profit seemed to them the only compensation for the many privations endured by them in this far off country. Covenanted servants and free merchants made common cause against any attempt to regulate their conduct and check their rapacity and this spirit of licence and insubordination was not slow in gaining an ascendancy over the military class as well. From the Governor to the youngest writer and from the General to the most junior ensign all were busily engaged in utilizing their official status for securing their private advantage. Verelst frankly wrote to the Directors on 30 September 1765 that many transactions of the senior servants of the Company "seem to demonstrate that every spring of this Government was smeared with corruption that principles of rapacity and oppression universally prevailed and that every spark of sentiment and public spirit was lost and extinguished in the inordinate lust of unmerited wealth."



as injurious both to his dignity and to his revenues and determined to take more effective steps than the authorities in London had succeeded in doing. The consequence was his overthrow and flight. Mir Jafar proved more amenable and exempted the English from all duties except a duty of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on salt. But the English were now no longer satisfied with this; they insisted that Mir Qasim's orders exempting all merchants from paying duties for 2 years be withdrawn and that the Indian merchants should be compelled to pay duties. The Court of Directors again protested: "These are terms which appear to be so very injurious to the Nabob and to the natives that they cannot in the very nature of them tend to anything but the producing great heart burnings and dissatisfaction." Until a more equitable and satisfactory plan could be framed the authorities at Fort William were directed to consult the Nawab as to the manner of carrying on the inland trade so that it might prove advantageous to all—the Nawab, the Company and the Company's servants.<sup>11</sup>

But even this order was ignored and the reports of mismanagement which were continuously being received so alarmed the Directors that as a last resort they sent out Clive once more with instructions to settle this question of inland trade in a manner honourable to the Company to the satisfaction and with the concurrence of the Nawab so as to prevent confusion and oppression.<sup>12</sup>

For the civil government a Select Committee with full powers was associated with Clive. He and his Councillors immediately addressed themselves to the accomplishment of the objects for which they had been appointed. "Upon my arrival I am sorry to say I found your affairs in a condition so nearly desperate as would have alarmed any set of men. The sudden and among many the unwarrantable acquisition of riches had introduced luxury in every shape and in its most pernicious excess."<sup>13</sup> and again "We saw plainly that most of the gentlemen in Council had been too deeply concerned themselves in the measures which required amendment for us to expect any assistance from them: on the contrary we were certain of finding opposition to every plan of innovation and an unanimous attempt to defeat the intentions of the proprietors."<sup>14</sup> Bold, imperious and intolerant of contradiction, Clive was sweeping in his censure and his statements must be read with caution, but however drastic his diagnosis, his remedies were well-chosen. He felt it was indispensable for the peace and prosperity of the country that the Company's servants should not be allowed to compete on their own account with Indian dealers in every market, but on the other hand if their integrity and efficiency were to be insured they should not be left uncared for in the midst of wealth which was within their easy reach. To Clive it seemed that the Company's servants indulged in illicit transactions because their regular emoluments were so scanty. From the beginning the Company, like all other commercial concerns, had paid their agents only a mere pittance but allowed them to supplement it by other means. But this system of personal enterprise was inopportune

with the sovereignty of a kingdom Clive therefore established a Society of Trade which was to consist of 3 classes of shareholders each entitled to a fixed number of shares class one with 35 shares was to consist of the Governor, members of Board and Colonels, class two with 12 shares comprised chaplains, junior merchants and Lt Colonels, and class three with 8 shares was to consist of factors, majors, surgeons etc This Society was to be managed by a Committee of Trade consisting of two members of the Select Committee and two members of the Council The Society was entrusted with all trade in salt, betel-nut and tobacco Supplies were procured from Indian merchants and sold at reasonable prices to agents who in turn transported them to certain places for sale The country merchants might then become the purchasers and again transport the commodities wherever there was the greatest prospect of profit<sup>54</sup> But to prevent the abuses and oppressions usually incidental to a monopoly, Clive devised a number of regulations and subjected the trade to a considerable duty At a resumed meeting of the Select Committee it was resolved that a duty of 35% be levied on salt, 10% on the prime cost of betel-nut and 25% on tobacco This was expected to yield at least a hundred thousand pounds sterling per annum<sup>55</sup>

Clive informed the Directors of this decision to establish a Society of Trade They, however, felt that it was not consistent either with the honour or with the dignity of the Company to promote such an exclusive trade, and that it was their duty to protect and cherish the inhabitants and give them no occasion to look on every Englishman as their national enemy The vast fortune acquired in the inland trade had been obtained by the worst tyranny and oppression ever known in any age or country, and therefore such trade should be totally abolished and not continued even in this limited and regulated manner<sup>56</sup> This prohibition was repeatedly ordered but Clive and the Select Committee, instead of abolishing this qualified monopoly, sought to prolong it for another year under what is known as the 'second plan'<sup>57</sup> Clive justified this decision by observing that when the Court issued their orders they could not have had the least idea of the favourable change in the affairs of Bengal whereby the interest of the Nawab with regard to salt was no longer immediately concerned Under the 'second plan', all salt provided by the Society of Trade was to be sold at Calcutta and at the places where it was manufactured only to Indian merchants at the rate of Rs 2 per maund, these merchants then transporting it to any part of the province Thus the servants of the Company would have no concern in the sale of salt Provision was also made for fixing the price of salt in different markets and the duty payable to the Company was raised from 35% to 50%, an enhancement which was expected to yield a further 12 to 13 lakhs annually<sup>58</sup> Clive and the Select Committee felt that this was the most equitable system that could be devised and hoped that the large increase in the revenue would ensure the Court's approval<sup>59</sup> But even this plan proved in practice open to abuse It is true that the prices charged by

<sup>54</sup> Select Committee Proceedings, 10 August 1765, Banerjee, *op cit*, pp 656-9

<sup>55</sup> Select Committee Proceedings, 18 September 1765

<sup>56</sup> Pp 189, 193-4

<sup>57</sup> Select Committee Proceedings, 3 September 1766

<sup>58</sup> Fourth Report of the Committee of Secrecy of House of Commons, 1773, Appendix 52, Article 10

<sup>59</sup> Pp 431, 469-70

the Society were 12% to 15% lower than the average prices prevalent for several years in other parts of Bengal. But even so they were exorbitant. The fact, moreover that the monopoly was limited only served to make it more effective. William Bolts described this monopoly as "the most cruel in its nature and most destructive, in its consequences to the Company's affairs in Bengal of all that have of late been established there. Perhaps it stands unparalleled in the history of any Government that ever existed on earth."<sup>80</sup> The Directors however resisting the allure of augmented revenue persisted in demanding the abolition of the Society which finally came to an end in September 1768.<sup>81</sup>

The receipt of presents from Indian rulers was another abuse that was generally prevalent. Luxury, rapacity and general relaxation of discipline formed the background for widespread corruption. Presents, gifts and customary payments by subordinates to superiors were familiar in Indian society and the servants of the Company who came to be regarded as the dispensers of real authority in the state found themselves in a position in which they would not merely receive but could also exact large and dubious payments.

The enthroning and dethroning of nawabs had been for several years as we have seen one of the most lucrative occupations of the Fort William Council. The *masnad* of Bengal was a commodity for barter. Even Vansittart, otherwise an upright individual, was induced to accept five lakhs from Mir Qasim indeed no one regarded such an act as in any way reprehensible. When Mir Jafar was restored to the throne in 1763 he was treated as little more than a banker for the Company's servants who could draw upon him as often and to as great an amount as they chose. In 1765 the nominal sovereignty of Bengal was put up for sale. On this occasion the English even went to the extent of reinforcing their demands for presents by threats. Every member of the Council received a gift becoming his rank.

That the receipt of such presents was an offence was made clear by a despatch from the Court of Directors signifying strong disapprobation of the practice and requiring all their servant civil and military to execute new deeds of covenant binding them not to accept any presents or gifts of land rent or revenue without the Court's consent.<sup>82</sup> For a short while however the English officials in Bengal resisted the orders of the Director to enter into new covenants and eagerly made the best use of the short interval before Clive's arrival. This precipitate anxiety to make ample provision for themselves against a long future of restraint makes clear that whatever the position in Vansittart's time no one could now question the illegality of such transactions.

Clive decided that such unblushing corruption in gross breach of the Company's orders could be countenanced no longer. He lent no time in informing his Council that the powers which had been assigned to him and the Select Committee would be wielded at once and unflinchingly. If covenants should be immediately executed on pain of suspension from

<sup>80</sup> Bolts, *op. cit.* p. 164.

<sup>81</sup> Fort William—India House Correspondence, Vol. V, pp. 134.

<sup>82</sup> For problems of the covenant see Bolts, *op. cit.* Appendix, pp. 1-33.

service. The junior officials sullenly obeyed, but when Clive openly censured the members of Council for receiving presents on the recent elevation of Najmud-Daulah to the throne, four of them resigned and the fifth invited suspension. Clive, however, was not dismayed. He promptly filled the vacancies by securing from the Madras Presidency four gentlemen of character and ability on that establishment.<sup>63</sup> "Not one of the gentlemen next in Council even so low as Mr Bolts (Mr Rumbold excepted) is worthy a seat at the Board, many of them are deficient in abilities, and all in principle, and as to the gentlemen of lower standing, they are not only too young, but too strongly tainted with the corruption of late times to be so soon entrusted with power."<sup>64</sup> The Committee's request to Madras for help caused great resentment among the civil servants in Bengal. They not only sent a memorial to the Court of Directors representing 'the injury and disgrace' they had suffered as a result of the action of the Select Committee but also formed themselves into an association. But this came to nothing, and the Court finally approved of the action of the Select Committee.

### *Clive's Military Reforms*

The spirit of corruption which prevailed to such an extent among the civil servants of the Company had also spread considerably to the military personnel. The temptations in Bengal were so strong that they had almost destroyed army discipline. The Court of Directors instructed Clive in 1765 to devote special attention while dealing with this problem to two points on which their frequent orders had so far been totally disregarded: the remodelling of the army on scientific lines and the reduction of the exorbitant military expenses. So once peace had been restored to the provinces of Bihar, Bengal and Orissa, Clive proceeded to effect reforms on these lines. On 5 August 1765 the whole army was divided into three brigades of equal strength and composition. Each brigade was to consist of one company of artillery, one regiment of European infantry, one *risala* of Indian cavalry and seven sepoy battalions. The first brigade under Brigadier General Carnac was stationed at Monghyr, the second under Colonel Richard Smith at Allahabad and the third under Sir Robert Barker at Patna (Bankipore). As Carnac who was Commander-in-Chief and member of the Select Committee was required to be present more or less constantly at Calcutta, the charge of his brigade devolved on Lt Col Sir Robert Fletcher. Each brigade now formed a complete unit capable of participating on its own in serious encounters, and the proportion of field officers was also considerably increased, to the great advantage of discipline.<sup>65</sup> These new regulations placed the Bengal army on a stable and efficient footing.

Having reorganised the army and moved it into cantonments Clive set himself to reduce the military expenditure. In earlier days the officers in Bengal, as in other Presidencies, had drawn the fixed rate of pay which formed their net receipts when in garrison or at headquarters. When they took the field they were allowed *batta*, an extra monthly sum of allowance to cover the increased expenses. After Plassey, Mir Jafar was obliged by

<sup>63</sup> Pp. 352, 362, 385-8, 392.

<sup>64</sup> P. 363.

<sup>65</sup> Forrest, *op cit*, II, p. 291.

the treaty of 1757 to defray the expenses of the British troops employed in his defence. He bestowed on the English officers an additional sum equal to the *batta* and this was known as double *batta*. The double *batta* at first a purely temporary indulgence came in process of time to be regarded as a matter of right. Mir Qasim anxious to obtain the goodwill of the army confirmed the grant. When the Company obtained the assignment of the districts of Midnapore, Burdwan and Chittagong expressly to meet the extra expenses of maintaining a force for the protection of the *subahdars* they were expected to pay this allowance also. This awoke the Court of Directors to the rapacity rampant in their military establishment. While they had tacitly acquiesced in the payment of double *batta* by the Nawab they now issued repeated and peremptory orders for the withdrawal of the extra allowance "that is to say all our military are to have single *batta* only in the same manner as is allowed at our Presidency of Fort St. George and even this single *batta* we most earnestly recommend it to you to reduce whenever circumstances will admit of it."<sup>1</sup>

Clive and the Select Committee therefore ordered that payment of double *batta* should cease from 1 January 1766 except at Allahabad where on account of the high prices of provisions, the allowance was to be continued while the troops were actually in the field but was to be reduced to single *batta* when they retired to cantonments. For the same reason single *batta* was to be paid to troops stationed at Patna and Monghyr.<sup>2</sup> To soften the blow Clive converted the five lakhs bequeathed to him by Mir Jafar into a fund for the benefit of invalid soldiers and widows of military servants.

Even so the promulgation of the order discontinuing double *batta* was the signal for mutiny. Though at first there was no open opposition the majority of the officers resented the cancellation of this payment and sought ways of securing its restoration. At length it was decided that about two hundred European officers should resign simultaneously their commissions in order to force the hands of the authorities at Calcutta.<sup>3</sup> The initiative seems to have been taken by the officers of the first brigade and whether the plan originated with Fletcher or not it was certainly known to him and received his approval. Many of the officers at Allahabad and Patna were also induced to join. The plot was formed under naths of secrecy but a few months before Clive had anticipated the possibility of such an occurrence.<sup>4</sup> Now when he received intelligence that his prophecy would be fulfilled he decided to make no concession. The economy secured by the reduction of the *batta* seemed to him of trifling consideration when compared with the disastrous consequences of yielding to the menace of such a mutinous association. In this the whole Council concurred with him. "An army making its own terms was such an alarming circumstance that we immediately determined to crush such a mutinous spirit in its birth at all hazards."<sup>5</sup> Fletcher the "principal promoter and instigator of the late dishonorable association"<sup>6</sup> and a few other leading offenders were arrested

tried by court martial, cashiered for sedition and sent back to England. To prevent any recurrence of similar trouble it was laid down that every officer restored to the army as well as all those who would enlist in future should execute a contract of service for three years with the right to resign only on a year's notice or with the permission of the President and Council.<sup>72</sup>

This incipient mutiny was perhaps the most serious crisis that Clive had to face during his second administration and had there been the slightest faltering on his part the whole power of the state might have been delivered into the hands of the army. For, the action of the officers had from the beginning been countenanced and supported by many influential civilians.<sup>73</sup> Clive believed that their personal resentment of him was responsible for this development, and "you will judge to what degree they must have been infatuated, to encourage and wish success to a measure which had it prevailed, must have overthrown their own civil liberties in this country, and rendered them the abject slaves of a despotic military government."<sup>74</sup> But thanks to Clive's quick and firm decisions, the whole movement collapsed within a month's time.

### Conclusion

Clive's work in Bengal was now more or less at an end. Within sixteen months he had accomplished most of the objects he had undertaken to perform. There was peace with all the neighbouring powers and treaties signed with some of them, Shah Alam had been recognized as the legitimate head of the empire and the *Diwani* of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa secured from him, corruption in Bengal was put down with a firm hand, the finances of the Company were improved and order and discipline were restored in the ranks of the army. "It is", wrote Clive to his employers, "upon the best founded confidence I assert, the East India Company was never so truly secure as at present, against military ambition and encroachment, never before have discipline, good order and subordination been so fully confirmed."<sup>75</sup> So he made preparations for his return to England. He had always intended to return by the end of 1766 and though the Court of Directors urged him to reconsider his decision,<sup>76</sup> he declined on the grounds of health and finally left India on 29 January 1767.

The task of introducing reforms in every aspect of the Company's administration was a Herculean one, and that Clive should have accomplished so much in so short a time in the face of faction, open hostility and simmering resentment is a remarkable tribute to his power of organisation and force of character. Yet he was too optimistic in believing that his reforms had taken root.<sup>77</sup> Once his personality was removed from the scene, the old evils reappeared on the surface. There was again a weak Nawab on the throne of Bengal. Saifud-Daulah had succeeded his brother Najmud-Daulah but apart from a reduction of the stipend for the expenses of the

<sup>72</sup> Pp 429, 432

<sup>73</sup> P 458

<sup>74</sup> P 432

<sup>75</sup> P 477

<sup>76</sup> Pp 167-8

<sup>77</sup> Pp 432-3



*Nisamat* from 53 to 41 lakhs, the new accession marked no change in the Nawab's relations with the Company. Though Clive left, the Select Committee associated with him continued to function till October 1774 but his departure meant also the removal of the spirit of his administration and Bengal gained little from the continuance of this body. Still Clive's second administration is of great significance in British Indian history and in these letters we get a graphic picture of his untiring efforts to introduce an element of responsibility in the Company's rule in Bengal and to curb to a certain extent the profiteering tendencies of its servants. The correspondence published here provides ample evidence in support of the view that the victor of Plassey was to be seen at his best not only on the battle-field but also in the Council chamber.

# LETTERS FROM COURT



## LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1764

*Company's relations with Qasim Ali Khan—urge removal of Company's corrupt servants—constitution of the Council at Fort William—regret thin attendance of Council meetings—abuse of the right of private trade by Company's servants and their gumashtahs—inland trade in salt, betel-nut and tobacco to be suspended—Company's privileges regarding duty-free trade*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1 We have in the most careful and attentive manner taken a view of the registers of your Proceedings for the year 1761, and from that time to the 14th February 1763 (the last received) wherein we find to our great concern the conduct and behaviour of many of our servants have been inconsistent with their duty to, and detrimental to the interest of the Company, in a variety of instances, which too glaringly appear upon the face of your said registers, particularly with respect to the present *Subah* of Bengal, Cossim Aly Khan, with whom it is most evident the strictest friendship and harmony ought to have been cultivated, instead whereof, he and his government have met with so much improper and injurious treatment, and been defrauded in his revenues by the licentious trade of our said servants, and the agents acting under and countenanced by them, to so great a degree that we dread the consequences, it is high time therefore to remedy these evils by exerting our authority in removing such persons, who if continued would (from what we have already observed of their behaviour) throw our affairs into the utmost confusion, and by appointing such others in their room, from whose good management we shall expect such care and attention to the true interests of the Company that we may not again be under the necessity of recurring to such a disagreeable measure

2 In our letter of the 13th May last we removed Mr Ellis from our service in Bengal, and took some notice of the intemperate conduct of Mr. Stanlake Batson at Cossimbuzar We now proceed to inform you that we have dismissed from the Company's service Mr Peter Amyatt, Major John Carnac<sup>1</sup>, Mr. John Johnstone and Mr. William Hay, and they are accordingly from the receipt of this letter to have no further concern in our affairs, and are to be sent home in some of the ships which will be dispatched in the season of the year 1765

3 As to Mr Batson, his conduct at present appears to us in a very unfavourable light, from the share he had in the disputes with the country government with respect to the inland private trade, in his unjust charge of a design in the *Subah* to treat the Begum, his mother in law, with cruelty, by interfering with that Prince's officers in the affair of Hurry Chunder, *Droga* of *Patchowterah*, wherein two persons of his escort were killed and two others wounded, also in giving protection at Cossimbuzar to Mirza Doud,<sup>2</sup> who had

withdrawn himself from the *Subah's* authority we therefore direct that Mr Batson do forthwith stand suspended from the Company's service until he acquits himself to the satisfaction of you our Governor and Council on the said several points or such others as have been alleged against him during the time of his being Chief at Cosimbuzar. If he acquits himself to your satisfaction he is to be restored to our service and station, if otherwise he is to be dismissed but whatever turn this enquiry takes, you are to send us a particular account of your proceedings.

4 Mr William Billers has not behaved entirely to our satisfaction, in particular his opposing ye regulations and restraints for the limitation of the inland private trade, calculated for the making an end of the disputes with the country government on that head shews he has not the Company's interest at heart so much as in duty he ought. You are therefore to give him a reprimand in our name at the Board and caution him to behave in such manner that we may have no occasion for finding any fault with him in future.

5. Among other instances of Mr John Caruer and his Council's behaviour we have great reason to believe that during his being Chief at Dacca they connived at, or did not use their best endeavours to remedy the great abuses and insults which occurred at that place by the *gomastahs* and other people employed in carrying on private trade. You are therefore to make a strict enquiry into the conduct of those gentlemen with respect to the said abuses and insults and pass such a censure thereon (if they deserve it) as you shall think proper and you are particularly to examine into the circumstance mention'd in your Consultations of the 14th October 1762, relating to a party of *sepoys* being sent from Dacca to Silhet who there fired upon and killed one of the principal people and afterwards made the zemindar prisoner and forcibly carried him away from the last named place and you are to cause justice to be done on whomsoever shall appear culpable in that unhappy affair.

6. The part which Mr Hugh Watts has taken as it appears on the face of your advices and Consultations we deem very blameworthy in his agreeing to the letter on Consultation of the 13th of November 1767 wherein the *Subah* is treated in disrespectful and indecent terms for joining in the resolution to call Major Carnac to the Board on commercial affairs contrary to our orders in that respect for vowing to call the chiefs of the subordinates up to the court at Fort William and for his approbation of the measures taken by Messrs. Johnstone and Hay in the disputes with the country government and of the terms in which the sense of the Board on the regulations proposed for limiting the inland private trade<sup>s</sup> are expressed. We do therefore hereby direct that Mr Watts be forthwith suspended from the Company's service and continue so until he shall have justified his behaviour in the foregoing instances to our satisfaction. You must forthwith call upon him for his defence which is to be enter'd on your Consultations for our information.

7 The conduct and behaviour of Mr William Bolts a Factor falling next under our consideration they appear so far as he was connected with Messrs. Johnstone and Hay to be very improper especially in joining with them in an audacious and impertinent letter to the *Phouadar* of Purnea. & it

stands on your Consultations of the 27th of December 1762, and for which the President recommended it to the Council to pass some censure upon him. He appears likewise to have been guilty of irregular practice in respect to carrying on his private trade. Let him be called into Council and reprimanded according to his deserts, and inform him if his conduct is not more satisfactory for the future we shall dismiss him from the service.

8 In the course of our enquiry into these transactions we observe one Cole, said to be a writer, is compla[ined] of, for that at Munaur Gunge Haut, which produces annually 12000 rupees, he had turn'd out all the inhabitants in order to build a house as set forth in a letter enter'd after Consultation of the 18th October 1762. Who this Cole is we are not inform'd, but let him be whom he may, you are to make a strict enquiry into the said outrage, and if you find him guilty of it, you are in the first place to oblige him to make a suitable and ample satisfaction to the injured parties, and then immediately send him away to Europe.

9 We further find that several persons residing under the Presidency of Bengal, as well free merchants as others have conducted themselves very unwarrantably, carrying on their trade in several parts of the country in the most uncontrollable manner and thereby exposing the Company's valuable privileges to the greatest detriment and hazard. Some of whose names who appear the most remarkable are Messrs Chevalier, Texeyra, Ivy, Motte, Robinson and the beforemention'd Cole. With respect to free merchants they certainly by such behavior forfeit their covenants, and as to others they have no right to the Company's protection, especially if they are guilty of the irregularities laid to their charge. We shall therefore leave it to you to make a general enquiry into the behaviour of such persons who reside any where under your Presidency, and if you find their behaviour has been or shall be such as may be really detrimental to the Company, you are to withdraw our protection from them and send them away from Bengal as soon as you shall think proper, giving us from time to time an account of your proceedings with respect to every such person.

10 We are now to inform you that we have appointed the following gentlemen to the Council for managing and conducting the Company's affairs at our Presidency of Fort William in Bengal to whom all due obedience is to be paid *vizt*,

Henry Vansittart Esqr	President and Governor
John Spencer Esqr	. Second
Brigadier Genl John Caillaud	. Third
Mr William McGwire	Fourth
Mr Stanlake Batson	Fifth
Mr Charles Stafford Playdell	Sixth
Mr William Billers	. Seventh
Mr Harry Verelst	Eighth
Mr John Cartier	Ninth
Mr Warren Hastings	Tenth
Mr Francis Sykes	Eleventh
Mr Randolph Marriott	. Twelfth
Mr Hugh Watts	. Thirteenth
Mr Ascanius Wilham Senior	. . . Fourteenth

11. And we do hereby order and direct that Mr John Spencer who stands Second in Council in the foregoing list do succeed to the chair as President and Governor in case of a vacancy by the death or otherwise of Mr Vansittart.

12. We explained ourselves very sufficiently in our letter of the 13th of May last with respect to the commission of  $2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent to be allowed to Mr Vansittart upon the revenue arising from the grants made by the Subah Cossim Ally Cawn as being meant personally for that gentleman and not to be claimed or any ways pretended to by any future Governor Mr Spencer therefore upon his succeeding to the chair as beforementioned is not to have that emolument.

13. When we informed you in our letter of the 30th of December last that General Caillaud's seat at the Council and in all committees was to be next below the President we had not then determined upon a successor to Mr Vansittart but as that is now done by our foregoing directions it is highly proper his rank should be in the second place, and General Caillaud is in course to be the standing Third in Council and at committees, in which station he is to be fixed and is never to rise higher and in case of a vacancy in the Government by the death or otherwise of both Mr Vansittart and Mr Spencer the same is to be filled up by the member next in standing below General Caillaud until our further orders are sent.

14. If it shall happen at any time that the President and Second in Council are both absent, in such case, the next member below Genl Caillaud is to preside at the Council and committees during such absence.

15. In our beforementioned letter we acquainted you that it was on account of General Caillaud's long experience and general knowledge of the Company's affairs that we directed he should have a constant seat and voice at the Council and in all committees this being intended as a personal compliment to and acknowledgment of his merit and not to be drawn into a precedent. Any successor which we may hereafter think proper to appoint to Genl Caillaud is only to have a seat at the Board when military affairs are under deliberation and upon no other times or on any other account whatsoever.

16. And we here add that the majors or any other military officers are to have no seat or voice at the Board but are to be consulted as occasions may require of which you will be the properest judges.

17. Altho we have continued Mr Stanlake Baison and Mr Hugh Watts in the Council, who at present stand suspended from the service they are not to act therein until they have cleared themselves from the charges against them as mentioned in the preceding part of this letter when they have done that to satisfaction they are then to have their rank and be employed as usual.

18. Mr Francis Sykes appointed as before noticed Eleventh in Council proceeds to his station either in the *Earl of Lincoln* bound to Fort St. George or by the way of Bombay on one of the ships consigned to that Presidency.

19. Considering the many important and interesting affairs which come before the Council, we can not but be greatly concerned to observe how few members have been generally present at the Board very frequently not more than three and sometimes but two this is partly owing to their being employed

as chiefs at the several subordinate settlements, in order to remedy this evil therefore in future, we direct, that the following chiefships and no others be filled by members of Council to wit, Patna, Cossimbuzar, Dacca, Burdwan, Chittagong and Midnapore, unless you see necessary to add Luckipore by this regulation, there will always be seven or eight at the Board, and the necessity of having at any times such a number at Calcutta is very obvious, and here we must remark that a visit of Mr Hay's to Mr Johnstone's at Burdwan when only two were left at the Board appears so extraordinary a step and so wanton a neglect of duty as obliges us to declare that if very good reasons are not assigned us when gentlemen of Council are suffer'd to remove from or to Calcutta upon private concerns we shall be highly displeased

20 One great source of the disputes, misunderstanding and difficulties which have occurred with the country government appears evidently to have taken it's rise from the unwarrantable and licentious manner of carrying on the private trade by the Company's servants, their *gomastahs*, agents and others to the prejudice of the *Subah* both with respect to his authority and the revenues justly due to him, the diverting and taking from his natural subjects the trade in the inland parts of the country, to which neither we or any persons whatsoever dependent upon us or under our protection have any manner of right, and consequently endangering the Company's very valuable privileges, in order therefore to remedy all these disorders we do hereby positively order and direct.

21 That from the receipt of this letter a final and effectual end be forthwith put to the inland trade in salt, beetlenut, tobacco, and in all other articles whatsoever produced and consumed in the country, and that all European and other agents or *gomastahs* who have been concern'd in such trade be immediately order'd down to Calcutta and not suffer'd to return or be replaced as such by any other persons

22 That as our *phurmaund* privileges of being duty free, are certainly confined to the Company's export and import trade only, you are to have recourse to and keep within the liberty therein stipulated and given as nearly as can possibly be done, but as by the connivance of the Bengal Government and constant usage the Company's covenant servants have had the same benefit as the Company with respect to their export and import trade, we are willing they should enjoy the same and that *dusticks*<sup>4</sup> be granted accordingly, but herein the most effectual care is to be taken that no excesses or abuses are suffer'd upon any account whatsoever, nor *dusticks* granted to any others than our covenant servants as aforesaid, however notwithstanding any of our former orders no writer is to have the benefit of a *dustick* until he has served out his full time of five years in that station Free merchants and others are not entitled to, or to have the benefit of the Company's *dusticks* but are to pay the usual duties

23 As no agents or *gomastahs* are to reside on account of private trade at any of the inland parts of the country, all business on account of licensed private trade is to be carried on by and thro' the means of the Company's covenant servants resident at the several subordinate factories, as has been usual

24 We are under the necessity of giving the beforegoing orders in order to preserve the tranquillity of the country and harmony with the Nabob, they



are rather outlines than compleat directions which you are to add to and improve upon agreeable to the spirit of and our meaning in them as far as may be necessary to answer the desired purposes. And if any person or persons are guilty of a contravention of them be they whomsoever they may if our own servants they are to be dismissed the service if others the Company's protection is to be withdrawn and you have the liberty of sending them forth with to England if you judge the nature of the offence requires it.

25. We cannot avoid in this place taking notice of the endeavours of President Vansittart to form a plan<sup>d</sup> of regulations which, tho it appeared so advantageous to individuals was strongly censured by the majority of the Council as not giving them according to their way of judging a sufficient scope for their unwarrantable trade however we are satisfied of the President's good intentions, but at the same time we say it was not calculated so as to prevent future misunderstandings with the *Subah* and his government because thereby an inland trade was to be admitted of which as has been before observed would certainly be attended with constant embroils and difficulties.

26. In our letter of the 30th of December last we named the persons who were to compose the Select Committee at your Presidency but as from the beforegoing alterations there is necessarily some variation We therefore hereby order and direct that it consists of the following named persons *viz.*

Henry Vansittart Esqr

President or the President for the time being

John Spencer Esqr

Or the Second in Council for the time being

Brigadier General John Caillaud

Mr William McGwire

Mr Harry Verelst

Mr Warren Hastings

and whenever by death or otherwise the said Committee is reduced under the number of six the vacancies are to be filled up by the remaining members of the said Committee with such person or persons as they shall think fit.

27 The beforegoing part of this letter tho dated as hereunder was drawn up before the arrival of the *Lapwing* from Ft. St. George with the disagreeable intelligence of your rupture with Cossim Aly Cawn.

28 It appearing by the said advices that Mr Stanlake Watson has in a great degree preserved in his bad behaviour we do hereby order that he be immediately dismissed the Company's service and sent to England in one of the ships that will be dispatch'd in the season of the year 1765

We are

Your Loving Friends

John Dorrten / Lau Sullivan / George  
Amyand / John Boyd / Cha. Cutts /  
Fredk. Pigou / Richd. Warner / M.  
Crabb Boulton / J. Purling / G. Rooker /  
John Manship / John Harrison / Robt.  
Burrow / Hen. Hudley / John Newnec /  
Timothy Tullie / Wm. Webster / Wm.  
Suxell / Charles Chambers

London

the 8th February 1764

## LETTER DATED 9 FEBRUARY 1764

*Delegation of full powers to the President and Select Committee to restore tranquillity in Bengal.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Having with great concern learnt by the advices received by the *Lapwing* from Fort St George that our affairs in Bengal are in the utmost confusion, in this unhappy situation it is become absolutely necessary to take such measures as may restore tranquillity, we have therefore writ a letter under this day's date, directed to Henry Vansittart Esqr President and Governour at Fort William and to him only, but in his absence, to the President and Governour and the rest of the Select Committee for the time being, in which we have conveyed our orders, directions and sentiments in the clearest manner and delegated the fullest powers to the persons to whom it is so directed to pursue such measures as they shall judge most proper on this unhappy occasion, and President Vansittart or in his absence the President and Select Committee for the time being will communicate to you such part thereof as he or they shall think proper from time to time, in the mean time all our affairs are to be conducted under the orders and directions of the said persons and they are to be obeyed by the rest of the Council and all other the Company's servants accordingly, and this is to be continued until you have our further order

Regarding particular powers granted to the President and the Select Comm

We are,

Your Loving Friends,

John Dorrien / Lau Sullivan / George  
Amyand / John Boyd / Cha Cutts /  
Fredk Pigou / Richd Warner / H  
Crabb Boulton / J Purling / G Rooke /  
John Manship / John Harrison / Robt  
Burrow / Hen Hadley / John Browne /  
Timothy Tullie / Wm Webber / Wm  
Snell / Charles Chambers

London,  
9th Febr'y 1764

## LETTER DATED 22 FEBRUARY 1764

*Agreement with owners of ships—purchase of slaves at Madagascar for Fort Marlborough—Governor and Council authorised to send back unlicensed persons whose conduct is prejudicial—directions to enlarge all investments—negotiations to be carried on with the Dutch Council to prevent the farms of saltpetre from falling in the hands of Muhammadan merchants—proposal of*

cartel by the Dutch for exchange of deserters—amicable settlement with Dutch factories regarding opium trade—strictures on Nandakumar's conduct—affair of Khwajah Petrus—discontinuance of assistance to Raja of Mampur against Burma approved—concern over the slow progress of works at Fort William—averse to fortifying Chittagong—revenues of Bengal Presidency—enquiry into frauds—claims to bonds lost at the capture of Calcutta—account of Restitution Fund for European sufferers—no objection to receipt of legacies from Omichand for benefit of Foundling and Magdalen Hospitals—power of granting pardons to be obtained by the Court—powers of the Mayor's Court—capture of the Susanna Margareta—strained relations with the Danes

## OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1 Our last advices under date of the 30th December were sent per *Worcester*, *Caernarvon* and *Devonshire* containing some general informations and directions, with a letter from our Secretary under the Secret Committee's directions addressed to the Governour separately of the 21st ultimo sent by the two latter ships the contents whereof are to be communicated to you as soon after the *Caernarvon's* arrival as he shall judge proper

2 We shall now proceed to give you such additional ones as have occurred since and make some observations upon the most material parts of the advices recd from your Presidency in the course of last season, all which we arrange under the usual heads.

3. It being most likely that the *Worcester* will reach Fort St. George before the two above mentioned ships and as it is of consequence you should have the packet by that ship, as soon as possible the President and Council are directed to forward it to you by the very first good sea conveyance they can provide. Proper directions are also given for sending to you with the utmost dispatch either of the other packets if contrary to our expectations the *Caernarvon* or *Devonshire* should arrive at Fort St. George before the *Worcester*

4 You will receive this letter in four transcripts by the ships *Duke of Albany*, *Vansittart*, *Lapwing* and *Earl of Lincoln* one of the Fort St. George and China ships.

5. The ships *Princess Augusta* and *Duke of Richmond* left the Downes the 14th December but the former springing a dangerous leak returned to Plymouth the 31st of the same month for the finding out and stopping of which it was necessary she should be docked it has been accordingly done and being in a good condition to prosecute her voyage she sailed from Plymouth.

6. The *Earl of Holderness* in her way to the Downes unfortunately run ashore and was stranded near Deal the 11th January. The ten chests of treasure for the West Coast being saved were laden on the *Admiral Watson*. Part of the cargo has been saved tho' greatly damaged but the ship is entirely wrecked.

7 Upon this misfortune and for supplying the loss of goods and stores occasioned thereby we have taken up the *Earl of Elgin* burthen 420 tons Captain Thomas Coole Commander and have stationed her as the *Earl of*

*Holderness* was for Fort Marlborough and China, the time of her departure is intended to be about the 25th of March

### *First of shipping*

8 In our letter of the 30th of December we mentioned about what times it was intended the ships of this season would be dispatched to the several places of their destination As the times of their departure will be noticed in the lists sent in the respective packets, it is unnecessary to enter into those particulars here, and you are therefore referred to the said lists We are to remark however that several of the said ships (particularly among those designed for Fort St George and China) have not been got ready by their owners so soon as was appointed and we wished for

9 We informed you in our said letter we had fixed upon the *Fort William* Capt Edward Roach and the *Success* Capt [ ]\* to purchase slaves at Madagascar for the service of Fort Marlborough Presidency<sup>1</sup> as it may be someway necessary for your being acquainted with the principal parts of our agreements with the owners of the said ships, this is therefore to make known to you:

That each ship is to be esteemed as a ship of 350 tons burthen to carry 26 guns and be navigated by 70 Europeans the captain and officers included, who are to be victualled and paid by the owners

That they are to proceed from England to Madagascar where the owners undertake to purchase slaves at their own expence to be delivered at Fort Marlborough the Company allowing them for each slave that shall be on board at the ships departure from Madagascar, fifteen pounds a head, two thirds of the number to be males from fifteen to forty years of age, and one third females from fifteen to twenty five years of age; boys and girls from ten to fifteen are to be reckoned two for one

That as an inducement to the commanders and chief mates to exert themselves in procuring as large a number of slaves as their ships can conveniently carry, and to encourage the surgeons to take the proper care of them in the passage, there is to be allowed twenty shillings for every slave shipped at Madagascar to be divided *vizt*, 13s 4d a head to the commander and 6s 8d to the chief mate, also for every one delivered at Fort Marlboro' the commander is to be allowed the further sum of 6s 8d and the chief mate 3s 4d The surgeon is likewise to be allowed ten shillings for each slave landed at Fort Marlborough.

That fifty passengers or soldiers are to be sent to Fort Marlborough on each ship for whom the owners will be paid here the usual passage money of ten pounds a head.

That the demorage of each ship is to commence ninety days after arrival at Madagascar at the rate of £8-15 a day and to continue until the time of sailing from thence for Fort Marlborough which must be on or before the 30th November next at furthest and then to cease

That the owners are to be allowed four pence a day for the diet of each soldier or passenger during the ships detention at Madagascar as aforesaid

\* H. Gardiner

That they be allowed seventeen pounds per ton in full for the cost freight and all other charges on such salt provisions as shall be delivered at Fort Marlborough also ten pounds per ton for rice after the same has been examined and found sufficiently good and fit for service, it being meant in case the agents for the owners should not succeed in the procuring a proper number of slaves that the cargoes or the remainder thereof be disposed of in the purchase of provisions.

That if the said ships shall be detained on their arrival upon the West Coast more than twenty days for the delivery of the slaves and cargoes their demorage is to commence at the expiration thereof at the rate of £11 13-4 per diem

That in case there shall be occasion to continue the said ships longer in the Company's service than the said twenty days then each ship is to be allowed fifteen pounds a day in consideration whereof the Company are to have the entire use of the ship during the whole time she shall be so engaged for

That the owners of each ship will be paid here by way of impress or advance on account the sum of £2500 and the accounts are to be finally settled on the delivery of the slaves and cargo upon the West Coast the dollars being to be reckoned at five shillings each.

That after the said ships are discharged from the Company's service they are to be at the entire disposal of the owners, upon these conditions nevertheless that they are not to be returned to Europe nor upon any account or pretence whatsoever be sold to the French or any other European nation excepting the English nor sold to any of the country powers without the leave or permission of the Company's Governour and Council, Chief Agents or Residents at such place where the said ships shall be so disposed of and that at whatever settlement they shall happen to be disposed of the said Governors and Council Chief Agents or Residents are to take security of the person or persons who purchase the same that they shall submit to these conditions.

That as the accounts of the said ships are to be finally adjusted between the President and Council at Fort Marlborough and the commanders or agents for the owners and the balances paid there if they are sufficiently in cash for the purpose if not the said President and Council are to give certificates or bills of exchange for the said balances upon any of our other Presidencies, or bills upon us payable ninety days sight if the agents for the owners shall chose this last mentioned method.

The foregoing informations will be sufficient to give you a general idea of our agreement and intentions with respect to the said two ships the Fort William and Success what further may be necessary in case they happen to come to your Presidency will be communicated to you by the President and Council of Fort Marlborough. The commanders officers and ships company may continue in and get employment in the East Indies if they think proper provided such employment shall not be inconsistent with or prejudicial to the interest of the Company or if they do not chose to remain in India they are to be at liberty to return home at their own expence on any of the Company's ships for which they may be engaged or can procure a passage

If the said ships shall not be materially wanted for any longer time than the twenty days which they are to lay at the West Coast as before mentioned.

it will be right to prevent our incurring the heavy expence of fifteen pounds a day for each, however this must depend upon circumstances which we must leave to the prudence of the President and Council of Fort Marlborough in the first instance and to you and our other Presiden[cies] so far as you or they may have any concerns or transactions with the said ships

10 The commanders of the several ships in the Company's service having hitherto been furnished with commissions under the Company's seal authorizing them to arrest, seize and send and remit to England all persons who shall be found in the East Indies contrary to the several Acts of Parliament made in that behalf and cited in the said commissions, as we do not find the granting such commissions to our commanders has had any good effect, on the contrary, it has afforded them to an opportunity of distressing country traders, by taking away their men, under a pretence of their compleating their ships complement, we have therefore thought proper to discontinue the practice of granting the captains of our Europe ships the said commissions

11 With respect to our several Presidencies the Governours and Councils have, in consequence of the powers they are invested with, sufficient authority to send home such unlicenced persons whose conduct shall be in any manner prejudicial to the Company

12 Martin Biggleston late Third Mate of the *Earl Temple* who deserted from his said station at Fort St George is to be sent home as an unlicenced person whenever he shall be found at your Presidency

13 On set[t]ling accounts with the owners of the *Onslow* we find that several goods are specified on the bill of lading and by accounts sent from your Presidency, as short delivered of what were consigned from England, which Capt. Hinde assures us were all (except some cordage used by him in the voyage) delivered at Fort St George by order of the Governour and Council, and afterwards when he was dispatched to Bengal not sent aboard again with the other articles, for want of your properly and particularly specifying the marks, numbers and quantities of the goods, so said to be short delivered, we cannot finish their accounts You are therefore by the return of the next ship to send us a very particular account of the said articles, and in future you must be [very] full and explicit in your accounts of damages and short deliveries, and likewise make them an article in your account current with the owners of every ship

14 You inform us that since the late alterations in the charterparty it is a practice with the commanders to protest in general against short weight and short delivery without having any particular reasons for so doing as you assure us was the case of Capt Glover of the *Warren* If this practice is continued care must be taken on your part in every instance to send us a true state of the case with your opinion thereupon that we may not be at a loss on settling accounts with the owners

15 When the ships *Drake* and *Hardwicke* were dispatched from Ingellee, some goods were returned and endorsed off their bills of lading, which endorsements on examination here appear to have been done in a very careless and irregular manner, several numbers being there mentioned which are not in the invoices, and others not corresponding with the bales received, you must

therefore send us by the first opportunity rectified accounts of the returned goods by the said ships and take care that this business is executed with more care for the future.

16. There were many pieces of muslins deficient by the *Fox* of the quantities invoiced as you will observe by our Warehousekeeper's account now transmitted to you. The package of the bales appeared in good condition, so that there was no reason to suspect their having been opened since they were first packed and of course they must be charged to the account of the Warehousekeeper. It is necessary you should make a strict enquiry into an affair attended with so great loss and give us an account thereof by the first conveyance, and also to take proper measures for effectually preventing the like in future.

17. With respect to your letting out the *Godolphin* to freight we must observe that the terms were very disadvantageous to the Company upon the contract made with the freighters, the 30,001 rupees paid by them for ten months amounting to no more than £3090-2-4 whereas the demorage paid by the Company for those ten months amounts to £5517 12 so that the Company lose more than £1400 by that contract. As to what you write about an abatement made to the freighters on the account of the time lost by docking at Bombay the method you pursued on that account was right, and as we have adjusted this matter with the owners to our satisfaction, you may deliver the freighters up their obligation.

18. The journals of the ships *Chesterfield* and *Norfolk* should have been sent to us properly certified by the commanders as their original journals of the occurrences and transactions of their voyages. We suppose those books to be in your possession if not you are to procure them from the persons who have them and in either case send them by the next conveyances. And you are to observe it as a standing rule in future that the journals of all ships sent to India and not intended to be returned to England are in like manner to be remitted to us.

19. We have with great satisfaction observed the prudent measures taken by you for the security of our shipping and the trade in general against the  
 Lre. 14th Feby designs of the three French ships of war which were cruising  
 1763 in Ballasore Road<sup>2</sup> in the months of January and February  
 Part, 3, 11 36. 1763 And we must acknowledge that it was to your care the impending danger was averted and that we suffered no loss after you received advice of their being at the said station.

20. The French plan was well calculated and had it been attended with that success which they might reasonably flatter themselves with we might have had a more sensible blow than that we received by their capture of the *Il alpole* upon the Coast of Choromandel, and we think ourselves extremely happy in the providential escape of so many of our other shipping

21. As William Mirtle Mate of the *Speedwell* a country vessel by his making his escape after he was taken by the said squadron was the means of rendering most material service thro' the early intelligence he gave you and indeed the first you received, we highly approve of the present you

made him on the part of the Company of one thousand rupces And it was very right in the merchants of the settlement to make him a handsome present for the benefit they received in their private fortunes by his said good service. And if you can give him further encouragement it will be still more pleasing to us.

22 You did well in giving Capt Henry Wedderburn<sup>3</sup> the thanks of the Board for his good services on this occasion during his cruize in the *Sea Horse* sloop and as you point him out to us as a man of merit and very fit to succeed Captain Scott in the post of Master Attendant, Capt Page Keble not being arrived from Bombay, we do therefore agree that if Capt. Keble does not chose to take upon him the office of Master Attendant at Fort William upon the death or otherwise of Capt Scott and signifies the same to you in writing upon your giving him notice of such vacancy agreeable to the directions in our letter of the 13th March 1761 that in such case Captam Wedderburn do succeed thereto

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

23 In answer to the 29th paragraph of your letter of the 8th April 1762 and the Commissary of Artillery's report therein referred to we are to inform you that no brass guns howitzers or mortars are sent out by the Company but what are proved at the King's warren<sup>4</sup> at Woolwich by His Majesty's Proof Masters where they undergo the same inspection and examination in every particular as those for His Majesty's service, and none received but what are in as perfect a condition as they should be were they to be delivered into the King's stores, and they are made conformable to draughts received from the Office of Ordnance The trunnion and cascable always remain unfinished until the carriage and elevating screw are fitted to the gun, for which reason they must still be sent in that state, and indeed they are delivered so into the King's stores, an iron spike must even be in the center of the cylinder to keep the core in its proper place when the gun is cast, but this is always bored down to the bottom We apprehend the Commissary must have made a mistake in saying it's impossible to fire twenty rounds without their vents being blown as this is a circumstance looked upon as highly improbable and what we are assured by the founder has never been known to happen to the best of his information Upon the whole as we know the importance of having our artillery in the best condition, we shall continue to give such directions to every person concerned as will we hope prevent any real occasion for complaints

24 The surgeons letter mentioned in yours of the 13th of December respecting the medicines and instruments has been taken proper notice of, and the necessary instructions given this season for their being put up as recommended to prevent the like accidents happening again as are therein noticed

25 We acquainted you in our letter of the 30th December that the Government intended to send out about 128 tons of victualling stores, one moiety whereof was to be sent to Fort St George, and the other to Bombay We are now to inform you that only 11 tons will be sent in the whole and that is all laden on the ship *Worcester*



*Thirdly of Investments*

26. Having given our sentiments very fully in our letter of the 30th of December upon the subject of your investment, we have only now to refer you to the same for your most careful attention depending upon your exerting yourselves to enlarge it at every settlement and residency wherever it can be done with a due regard to the quantities, qualities and sortments, mentioned in the lists transmitted to you this season and here we are to observe you are endeavouring to encourage the provision of piece goods at Chittagong which we hope will be attended with the desired success with respect to raw silk in particular you did right in directing the Chief and Council at Cossimbuzar to extend the provision of that article as much as possible and we shall hope by the next season's shipping to see the good effects of your said directions.

27 We find Mr De la Porte has informed you he believed he could be of most service to the Company in regulating the investments of fine cloths and silk piece goods, and that in consequence thereof he was to proceed to Dacca taking Cossimbuzar in his way As we have a good opinion of his knowledge and judgment in Bengal goods we shall depend upon your employing him wherever and in whatever manner you shall think most for the advantage of the Company

28. Mr De la Porte we find has represented to you that his stipend or salary (of two hundred pounds a year) is insufficient to defray his necessary expences, and you assure us his representation is just we are willing to give him all due encouragement to serve the Company in his station with alacrity We therefore leave it to you to give him such a gratuity as you shall think reasonable and he may be deserving of provided his salary and gratuity together do not exceed the annual sum of three hundred pounds.

29 At the time we framed the list of investment the *corahs* of the natural colour mentioned in your letter of the 13th December 1767 were not sold so that we could not therein give any opinion of them but we can now inform you that they were tolerably well liked therefore besides the quantity of that article already ordered we would have two thousand *taffeties* made and sent us without any dye of the usual length and breadth of *taffeties*, to be manufactured in the best manner you can have them done.

30. In answer to what you say in your letter of the 14th February a<sup>d</sup> *not dooreas cossajura* as we have received only one bale of stitched *dooreas* within these two years past, it is impossible for us to give any opinion whether to give the preference to the *cossajura* or Dacca sorts, but we hope to receive some of each done in the best manner by which we shall be able to form a judgment and in consequence thereof give you the necessary directions

31 We have often directed that accounts should be sent us in what manner the lists of investments have been complied with at Fort William and every place subordinate thereto We have accordingly received such accounts from some of them but you must take care that for the future they are sent

from all places where goods are provided, and if possible sooner in the season than they are generally transmitted

32 Altho' we are in hopes you will have such success in your investment of bale goods as will not lay you under the necessity of lading such large proportions of salt petre in order to make up the charter-party tonnage of our several ships as has been the case for some time past, yet a considerable quantity will doubtless be wanted, and as by our relinquishing (for the present at least) our exclusive *perwanna* or grant for that article in consequence of which the Dutch have a liberty of purchasing as they please, you are certainly very right in endeavouring to settle such a plan with the Directore and Council at Chinsura as may contribute to prevent the farms falling again into the hands of any of the Moor merchants, and to regulate the proportions for each Company in such a reasonable manner as may be consistent with the interest of both for which purposes you proposed the salt petre should be bought under the sanction of our *perwana*. Your next letter we hope will inform us that this affair has been settled to the mutual satisfaction of both parties

*Fourthly of the Country Government and transactions with the French and other European powers*

33 We are concerned to observe that there is hardly a circumstance that occurs with the Dutch in which they do not aggravate every thing to its height and that in terms which seem to be peculiar to themselves. This among other transactions is evident from what passed upon your demanding their delivering up some deserters from our troops at Patna, their artifice is also very apparent in their insisting upon a clause in a cartel proposed by them as mentioned in your letter of the 8th April 1762 for the mutual delivering up of deserters excepting, however, Dutch men who should desert to them, and *vice versa* English men who should desert to you. The prejudice to us and the advantage on their side if such a clause had been inserted are so plain that you acted properly in not agreeing to it

34 We are extremely glad to find by your letter of the 14th February 1763 that the disagreeable altercations and disputes between the English and Dutch factories concerning the opium trade have been accommodated by the President, when he was at Patna, to the satisfaction of both parties, as there is reason to believe that both our servants and those of the Dutch have been to blame. We strictly charge it upon you to see that the conduct of our servants in the providing or purchasing this article is such as may prevent every reason for complaint, and on the other hand the greatest care must be taken that the Dutch behave in like manner to ours

35 We cannot avoid taking notice that in the course of the proceedings between the commissaries of this Company and those of the Dutch among other of the latter's alledged grievances they complain that the opium trade at Patna has been monopolized by Mr McGwire and we find by your register that the said complaint was too well founded, you are therefore to signify to Mr McGwire our displeasure at this transaction of his and as

such a proceeding in future must prove very prejudicial to individuals and be the means of occasioning embarrassments to the Company it is our positive order that you take care to prevent every kind of monopoly and if you find any person or persons guilty of such unfair practices he or they are to be forthwith dismissed from the Company's service.

36. Willing as we are that every occasion for disputes with the Dutch should be industriously avoided and that harmony and friendship should be cultivated with the greatest care between the two Companies and their respective servants in India, yet a due attention must be always had to prevent their infringing or breaking in upon our just rights and privileges and a strict eye must be kept upon all their motions, and you are to send us in the most authentick manner whatever papers pass between you and the Dutch upon any differences or disputes whatsoever agreeable to our former orders which are sufficiently laid down therein.

37 From the whole of your proceedings with respect to Nundcomar<sup>a</sup> there seems to be no doubt of his endeavouring by forgery and false accusations to ruin Ramchurn<sup>b</sup> that he has been guilty of carrying on correspondences with the country powers hurtful to the Company's interests and instrumental in conveying letters between the Shazada and the French Governor General of Pondicherry in short it appears he is of that wicked and turbulent disposition that no harmony can subsist in a society where he has the opportunity of interfering we therefore most readily concur with you that Nundcomar is a person improper to be trusted with his liberty in our settlements, and capable of doing mischief if he is permitted to go out of the province either to the northward or towards the Decan. We shall therefore depend upon your keeping such a watch over all his actions as may be the means of preventing his disturbing the quiet of the public or injuring individuals for the future.

38 In the affair of Coja Petruse<sup>c</sup> there seems to us much reason to doubt the authenticity of the letters and especially as the President has declared that no such man as Cawn Beladr so often mentioned in them was ever seen or heard of by him nor any such proposal ever made to him as is therein mentioned but as you desire to be informed what measures you may lawfully take in cases of this nature and particularly what proofs are sufficient to authorize you to seize the papers of persons accused, we think it right to acquaint you in general that where the accused are the subjects of the Indian princes great caution and circumspection must be used and if actual proof cannot be procured but you have reason to think the suspicion well founded you are then to endeavour to get such person called or removed by remonstrances to his employers and upon due proof of guilt you may send him yourselves to his employers with such evidence of his guilt as you shall be possessed of. The intercepting of letters may upon a well grounded suspicion be in some measure justified but the writing of papers is a matter of a very delicate nature and without the fullest and most satisfactory evidence of the facts, and a certainty of finding such papers a would authenticate such facts we cannot encourage you to pursue such a measure

Lre. 8 April  
Pas. 14 & 16.  
30 Octr 112, 113.

Lre 8 April, 176  
Pas. 1 2.  
30 Octr 114

39 We are informed in a letter from your Select Committee of the 8th April 1762 that the design against the Morattas at Cuttack was dropped, as from the situation of affairs and the condition of the Nabob, we must have become principals in the expedition, it is with real pleasure therefore, we find that project was not carried into execution and we must add that no schemes for military operations are to be adopted unless they are evidently and most materially necessary for the Company's interest. Conquests are not our aim and if we can secure and preserve our present possessions in Bengal, we shall rest well satisfied

40 For the same reasons we are well pleased that you have engaged no further in assisting the Rajah of Meckly<sup>s</sup> for obtaining redress for some grievances he complained to have suffered from the Burmahs, for although the advantages offered by the Rajah may be specious and you might have an opportunity of getting redress for the repeated ill treatment of our settlement at the Negrais, yet the distance of the object, the general weakness of our forces and the uncertainty of success surely are sufficient reasons for not proceeding upon new hostilities. We do not disapprove, however, of your ordering the detachment of six companys of seapoys to take post at Moneypoor under the direction of the Chief and Council of Chittagong, provided it may have been the means of cultivating a friendship with the said Rajah, and giving you an opportunity of being acquainted with the strength, nature, and dispositions of the Burmahs, that such future use may be made of these circumstances as may be really and essentially necessary for the Company's interest and on no other account whatsoever, but we shall still be always well pleased with and applaud your endeavors for opening any new channels of commerce

*Fifthly of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

41 It is matter of much concern to us to find by Mr Amphlett's<sup>s</sup> letter of the 6th of December 1762 to which you refer for the state of the works at Fort William how slowly they go on and particularly the little progress made thereon in the course of the preceding season, for which we do not find any reason given either by yourselves or Mr Amphlett, we are well satisfied from the whole tenor of that gentleman's conduct during the time he has had charge of that fatiguing branch, that the fault does not lay at his door, but whatever may have been the occasion, we recommended it to you in the most serious manner to see that the utmost diligence is used for the future, that the works may be carried on and compleated in as frugal and expeditious a manner as possible. We have often taken notice of the heavy expence resulting from the extensive and extravagant projects of Mr Brohier, we must therefore again recommend to your most serious consideration the contracting his plans as far as can be reasonably done, that we may have the pleasure of soon seeing a period to the immense charges which have been and we have too much reason to apprehend will still be incurred before the works even upon the most contracted plan will be compleated

42. We observe you have some thoughts of fortifying Chittagong<sup>10</sup> which you represent as being weak and indefensible at present and for that purpose had wrote to the gentlemen at that factory for a plan  
 Lre. 14th Febr'y  
 Pa. 32. which you say you apprise us of that we may acquaint you how far we shall approve of your fortifying that settlement from the manner of your expressing yourselves we are under some doubt you intended to make a beginning before our orders could be received but we hope you have not taken such a liberty for we are entirely averse to your undertaking any new works at any of our subordinate settlements except such as may be absolutely and really necessary for housing goods and other mercantile uses only especially when we are not fully informed of all circumstances and the proper plans and estimates of the expence have been laid before us nothing of which is done with respect to Chittagong you are therefore [not] to suffer any works to be set about at Chittagong without our express leave.

43 We have with great pleasure taken notice of your frequent recommendations of Mr Amphlett we are satisfied they are no more than are due to his merit and services and sorry we are that his health would not permit of his continuing in charge of the work  
 Lre 30 Oct  
 Pa. 62. as Principal Engineer you will consider of some station agreeable to his standing wherein he may be most useful to the Company and at the same time advantageous to himself and promote him thereto as we are desirous he should have all due encouragement.

44 In consequence of what we wrote to you on the 30th December Capt. Fleming Martin<sup>11</sup> proceeds on the *Vansittart* to take upon him the post of Principal Engineer of our Presidency at Fort William he has been extremely well recommended to us as a gentleman of abilities in his profession and we hope will fully answer our expectations. Besides his post of Engineer he is to succeed to the command of Captain of one of our artillery companies upon the first vacancy that shall happen after his arrival.

45 Captain Martin having no separate instructions or powers from us as engineer he is to act under your direction you are therefore to give him the necessary orders from time to time and furnish him with copies of such parts of our letters and your own proceedings as may be most useful to him and of whatever else may be material for his information in doing which you will always have in view the conducting the works with the utmost diligence economy and frugality so frequently recommended to your attention and care

46 He is to lay before you from time to time the progress made in the several works carried on under his direction which is to be transmitted to us as often as conveniences offer and at the same times you are to give us your thoughts and sentiments upon the whole

47 Captain Martin as Principal Engineer is to rank as Captain and to have the annual salary of three hundred pounds in full consideration for his services in that station. If however he is at any extraordinary expence in the execution of his office they are to be paid. We must leave it to you to judge of such expences, depending upon your making us acquainted with what shall appear unavoidable and reasonable

48 Although we have not agreed to find him an house or apartment

yet you are to accommodate him with one if it can be conveniently done, but it is not intended that the Company should be at any expence in hiring one.

49 Captain Martin as before observed is to succeed to the command as Captain of one of our artillery companies upon the first vacancy that shall happen after his arrival for which he is to have the established pay of two hundred pounds a year; in the mean time and until such vacancy happens, it is our pleasure and direction that he be allowed the said pay of two hundred pounds a year. He is to take rank as Captain upon his arrival as first of the gentlemen proceeding this season to your Presidency in that rank, and his pay both as Engineer and Captain is to commence upon such his arrival.

50 We sent you last season Mr John Fortnom as a Civil Architect and Assistant Engineer, and this year Mr Paul Benfield proceeds in the like capacity to Fort St George but if not wanted there to be sent to your Presidency as you will observe by your letter of 30th December. Upon one of these ships we likewise send out Mr James Butler to be a practitioner engineer and ensign. These gentlemen we hope will prove an useful recruit to the said corps, and are all we can at present engage. We must suppose that Lieutenant Polier to whom you have given the rank of Captain Lieutenant, will make a good assistant to Captain Martin as you have thought fit to give him the charge of the works until we sent you a Chief Engineer, and as second in rank, you have our leave therefore to continue him in that station.

51 The revenues at your Presidency being now become an object of great importance, the care and attention you may discover for the improvement thereof cannot but be highly agreeable to us.

52 It is with great pleasure we hear that the revenues of the Burdwan province<sup>12</sup> have been encreased one lack and a half for the last year, but as from the annual advances that have been agreed to by the Rajah which are so much greater than he at first seemed willing to allow this province would admit of, there is reason to believe that the real produce of the lands may be greater than you have hitherto been able to discover, and the lands themselves may by good management and a state of tranquility be capable of still further improvement, we trust that the revenues arising from them will be proportionably encreased.

53 As to the provinces of Chittagong and Midnapore, we could not but hope to have found an increase answerable to the expectations you had given us in your letter of 12th November 1761 but whatever may have been the cause of the little advance that has been made thereon for the last year, we rely on your zeal and fidelity to take the advantage of every opportunity that may offer for the enlargement of these revenues.

54 As by the method you proposed of keeping the Calcutta *purgannahs* in the Company's hands for one year, you will undoubtedly have obtained a full knowledge of the measurement, produce, and value of these districts, we hope that you have by this time established this revenue upon terms the most advantageous to the Company.

55. The disposal of the salt farms upon the terms you have agreed to, we must conclude to be the best that circumstance would permit however as we ourselves have not sufficient lights to judge how far these revenues may or ought to be extended we must rely on you to make such future improvements as you shall find practicable and expedient.

56 As you mention that these farms make a separate article of the Calcutta revenues you will take care in your statement of the *purgannah* accounts to keep this under a distinct head that we may at all times readily see the amount thereof.

57 The method you have fixed on for levying on the inhabitants a proportion of the expence for repairing roads making drains &c appears to us the best expedient for removing all difficulties you were under with regard to so necessary a charge and you will perceive by our letter of the 9th March 1763 that we ourselves were under some doubts how far we might be authorized by our Charter to make assessments for such purposes, therefore as the doubling the tax on ground rents (which before was rated very low) seems liable to no objections we entirely approve of your determination thereon.

58. Although you have not completed your enquiry into the frauds committed by several persons concerned in the new works, yet it sufficiently appears from the progress you have made therein that the Company have been notoriously abused and sorry we are to observe that two of our late servants, viz Messrs. Mackett and Boddam are suspected of participating in the said frauds during the times of their respective paymasterships the first to the amount of forty thousand rupees and the other twenty thousand rupees we shall expect to see the final result of your enquiry and as you by this time must be well informed of the various methods which have been taken to wrong the Company you will be the better able to guard against the like in future and we shall accordingly depend upon your constant care and attention to that purpose.

59 You will omit no opportunities of recovering whatever it shall evidently appear the Company have been wronged of [so] far as the effects of any of the delinquents may be come at Brohier you inform us was at Columbo and Lewis his late assistant died at Batavia we fear therefore little can be expected from those quarters however so long as any probability remains your care must be continued.

60 As you assure us that after the strictest enquiry Mr Francis Charlton has altogether acquitted himself of having had any concern whatever in the gross frauds committed in carrying on the works and that you are fully convinced whatever negligence may appear on his part was owing to his ill state of health depend therefore upon your assurances and representation of Mr Charlton's case we do consent to his being restored to our service and he is accordingly to take his standing therein in the rank he stood at the time of his dismission but let him know we shall expect he will convince us by a faithful and diligent discharge of his duty that this favour is not improperly conferred

Lre 30 Oct  
Pas. 58, 59 61

Lre 30 Oct  
Pas. 60 "1

*Sixthly and seventhly of covenant and military servants and accounts*

61 Having appointed twenty five writers upon the Bengal establishment last season and fourteen this, we are very certain if proper care is taken to keep them to their duty, you can have no reason to complain for want of assistance, and that they may be kept to their duty, you are strictly to attend to and carry into execution the instructions and orders we gave on this head in our letter of 17th December 1762

62 Upon the decease of your two chaplains, Mr Cape and Mr Stavely, we observe you have appointed and recommended for our confirmation, the Revd Mr William Hurst, Chaplain to Admiral Cornish and Mr William Parry, Chaplain to His Majestys 84th Regiment of both which gentlemen you give good characters, but as we have never had more than two chaplains upon the Bengal establishment and we sent out last season the Revd Mr Furnival Bowen as one of them, he is to be the first chaplain in rank, and we confirm your appointment of Mr Hurst who is to be the second

Lre [8?] April 1762, Pa 23  
do 13 Decr [Pa] 14  
do 17 Decr 1762 Pa 42

63 If there is a vacancy by the decease of Mr Bowen or Mr Hurst then we would have it filled up by the Revd Mr Parry, but if both the first mentioned gentlemen are at Fort William, he is to remain there in the rank of third chaplain until there is a vacancy by the death or coming away of either of them, or he is to succeed on any vacancy at our Presidency at Fort St George or that of Bombay, but after Mr Parry is provided for in any of the beforementioned modes you are to return to the original establishment of having no more at any one time than two chaplains

64 We think it reasonable that the surgeons and assistants who are employed in attending our troops should be deemed as much upon the establishment as others, and be entitled to succeed to be head surgeons at the Presidency as vacancies happen according to their rank if you are fully satisfied of their abilities, altho' in general we would have them advanced in turn it is not to be observed as an invariable rule, for the man of superior abilities should always have the preference and this we leave to you to determine upon, depending upon your making your choice without any other consideration whatsoever than is due to merit

Lre 8 April 1762 Pa 38

65 We have given leave for Mr Robert Nicolson's proceeding to any of our settlements in India to be entertained as a surgeon where he may be wanted if found deserving, next after such as have been already recommended

66 As you had employed a person for so long a space of time to bring up your General Books, we had the greatest reason to expect that you would have been enabled to transmit them to us compleat to April 1762, the omission of which has involved us in many difficulties, one of which we shall particularly mention, and that is the uncertainty we are in with regard to the expences attending the French prisoners at your Presidency and this at a time when it was material for us to deliver in our demand on this account.

Lre 13 Decr 1762 Pa 19

67 Your General Books would have removed part of our difficulties as they must have shewn at one view the amount of this expence for the period they



contained but from such omission we have the greater reason to complain that you have not sent us a separate account of the expences of French prisoners at your Presidency. The only general state we have to guide us is that received per *Warren* which was closed 31st January 1762, but this state we can by no means rely on as it appears defective for some periods in which we apprehend expences must necessarily have been incurred.

68. However as the expence attending French prisoners cannot, from its nature be soon finally closed, we must here repeat our former orders that you do not fail to state a separate and circumstantial account of this expence from its commencement to the latest period and transmit the same to us by the first advices and continue to do so by every conveyance inserting the additional expences that may have occurred from time to time and this is to be continued until the whole is completed.

69. We must further observe to you that as we may be called upon for particular vouchers to our account it is requisite you should have your statements authenticated if possible in the same manner as those at Fort St. George which are certified by some French officer or civil servant, but if such signatures should not now be attainable at your Presidency you will take care at least to give your accounts the best authentication in your power.

70. When we gave you directions in our letter of 19th February 1762 to explain more particularly the demands made for bonds lost at the capture of Calcutta, we had reason to hope that your answer would  
 Lre [ ]  
 Pat. 85 & 92. have been so full and satisfactory as not to leave us in our former uncertainty with respect to the justness of the claims, but we are sorry to observe that from your inaccuracy with respect to one of the claims we cannot be entirely satisfied of your care in the examination of this matter.

71. We are led to this observation from the claim for a bond in the name of Thomas Purnell to the amount of current rupees 39,076-1-6 for which sum a certificate had been granted and which you admit as justly due though it appears by your treasury accounts for February 1756, that current rupees 13,333-5-3 had been paid off that bond and indeed had you adverted to your General Books ending May 1756 you would have found that the balance due to him was no more than current rupees 2574<sup>1</sup> 12-3 which balance also appears the same on your General Books ending April 1758 which are the last received.

72. However as the claims mentioned in your letter of the 30th October 1762 have been long in suspense we have taken the same into consideration and with respect to the demand made at your Presidency for principal and interest of an interest note made out in 1754 for current rupees 587<sup>1</sup> 2-3 in the name of Messrs. Drake and Manningham on account of George and Mary Tipping and it appearing that a notarial certificate was on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 1757 given under the hands of the Governor and Council of the said Presidency that such interest note was not (to the best of their knowledge) paid off or discharged in full or in part between the dispatch of the *Denham* Capt. Meard and the loss of the settlement in June 1756, we direct that the said principal sum together with all interest due thereon be discharged out of our cash at Calcutta upon the said original certificate of the 1<sup>st</sup> October

1757 being delivered up and also upon leaving with you an affidavit to be made by Mary Tipping and Catherine Tipping (widow of George Tipping) to the purport mentioned in a form we have herewith sent you, and upon this further condition that the said Mary Tipping and George Tipping's personal representative or whoever shall appear to be intitled to the money shall execute a bond according to the form now also sent, and you are to take care that the security be responsible, and require in all the other cases after-mentioned, sureties to be bound with the claimants of the money, and full satisfaction is to be given you that no allowance has been made in respect of the sums claimed upon lost bonds out of the Restitution Fund<sup>11</sup>

73 We have also considered of the demand for the principal and interest upon the seven bonds mentioned in your same letter of the 30th October 1762 and whatever is due for principal and interest thereon, we direct also to be discharged upon the like certificates from our Governour and Council for the time being delivered to you and the like affidavits being made and bonds of indemnity given as above directed concerning the first mentioned interest note The form of the affidavit and bond herewith sent (with variations to suit the different circumstances) will serve in these last cases, and you are to take care that where the original proprietors do not apply for payment, the titles of the parties applying be well made out and ascertained, and you are to have discharges or authorities to pay the money from the personal representatives of the deceased proprietors and in every of the cases, we desire the best evidence may be laid before you that the nature and circumstances of them will admit of

74 But as the bonds for these demands are of a considerable standing and cannot from their circumstances be produced to you, we must particularly recommend to your attention that the several dat[es] of them be strictly examined into lest any mistakes should be made in the computation of interest and thus we are led into from the perusal of Mr Holwell's letter to you dated 5th March 1759 which we received per *Prince George* wherein Mr Holwell mentions Mr Purnell's bonds to consist of four and to be dated in December 1750 where by your General Books 1754 to 1755, it appears that his demand of current rupees 39,076-1-6 arose in the following manner

Principal of a note dated 1st January 1753 for C Rs	35,849-10-0
Interest one year	3,226- 7-6

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C Rs 39,076- 1-6

and consequently simple interest only is to be computed from 1st January 1754 allowing for the above payment of C Rs 13,333-5-3 in February 1756

75 This precaution arising from the state of Mr Holwell's demand as attorney to the heirs of Thomas Purnell, will necessarily induce you to be equally careful with respect to the dates of the other bonds and the interest thereon

76 We must here inform you that Mr Holwell has given us a bond of indemnity and other requisites to our satisfaction in respect of a lost note or bond for current rupees 10,000 made out in his name in 1747 which by Mr Holwell's application and the 87th paragraph of your General Letter dated 30 October 1762 appears to be in trust for the widow of Robert Massey

deceased. We hereby direct you to pay the said principal and the interest due thereon (which is said to be from the 1st February 1761) to Mr Holwell's attorney and as Mr Holwell desires a new bond may be made out in his name for the principal you may at the same time receive from his attorney the said sum of current rupees ten thousand into our cash and give a new bond accordingly. As the indemnity bond and other papers given by Mr Holwell are to remain in our hands it is not necessary for you to require any further security or evidence relative to this demand.

77 From the account you gave us in your letter of the 30th October 1762 of the state of the restitution to European sufferers, wherein <sup>from</sup> you advise us that the balance then due to that fund was <sup>Par. 94 and 96</sup> no more than current rupees 58,335-13-3 we could not but be surprized at a bill being filed against the Company in the Court of Chancery here by the claimants on the Restitution Fund for a balance said to be due to them amounting to upwards of one million of current rupees: however we have prepared an answer to this bill but find ourselves under great difficulties for want of the following materials—the particulars and amount of all the sums claimed and admitted by the commissioners the particular sums paid and unpaid on each claim admitted and of the twenty per cent thereon.

78. This bill filed in Chancery alleges that the claims admitted amounted in the whole to current rupees 39,54,722. The only account we have received is the abstract on your Consultation of the claims admitted before the 13th October 1757 which makes the amount but current rupees 39,42,878—and supposing the plaintiff's bill to be right in this respect we must conclude that the remaining sums were admitted after October 1757.

79 The amount set forth in the bill with the 20 per cent thereon makes current rupees 47,45,666, but then the account of the European Restitution Fund as appears by the Restitution Book closed 30th September 1761 (a copy of which you have transmitted to us) makes the amount of the money paid out of our treasury (which we suppose to be to the claimants) no less than current rupees 52,94,970—which is current rupees 5,49,304—more than the amount of the claims and 20 per cent thereon and by your treasury accounts from 30th September 1761 to 31st December 1762 there appear to be many other payments made on account of this fund and you give us reason to understand that some part of the claims admitted were still to be received out of our treasury.

80 Being in this state of uncertainty we are unable to set forth such an account as we wish to do or indeed such as the nature of the case requires. You must therefore not fail to give us a full account of the sums claimed and admitted by the commissioners for restitution and for what claimed and admitted and whether any part remains unpaid and to whom and also the vouchers for the several payments. You must likewise inform us whether the whole of Roydoolub's commission has been paid and whether he has given any receipt for it. These particulars you must supply us with together with every other information you may think necessary and you must also explain to us what is meant by *reserved commission* in the 63rd and 64th paragraphs of your letter of the 17th November 1761 in whom such commission is due upon what consideration and what is the amount thereof.

81 We send you in duplicate by the ships *Duke of Albany* and *Fausittart* a copy of the bill beforementioned and our answer thereto by which you will be the better enabled to judge what information it is necessary for us to receive and you must take care to be very full and explicit with respect to every circumstance required

82 We cannot conclude the subject of restitution to European sufferers without expressing our surprize that the claim of Mr Van Staaden which appears so equitable and well supported should have been rejected by the commissioners on account of his being a foreigner, but as to the opinion you give us that this gentleman's case may be considered as far as the amount of the surplus money will admit, you must now be sensible that while the surplus itself is in dispute, it is impossible for us to come to any determination as to the disposal thereof. However, by our answer to the bill before mentioned, you will perceive how desirous we are of doing him all the justice in our power and therefore amongst other informations required, you must give us all the materials you can collect that may enable us to support his claim upon the Restitution Fund

83 With respect to the legacies given by Omichund<sup>1</sup> mentioned in the 35th paragraph of your General Letter of 8th April 1762, we have no objection to your receiving into our cash the annual sums to be remitted to England according to the usual course of remittances for the benefit of the Foundling and Magdalen Hospitals, but as to the capital sum of current rupees 37,500 which you inform us Huzzoorimul requested he might pay into our treasury at Calcutta there to remain for ever and the interest to be remitted annually to these charities, we can by no means agree that the same be received into our treasury upon the terms proposed by Huzzoorimul and indeed we concluded you had not taken any step towards accepting it or done anything relative to Omichund's bequest except by giving bills to Huzzoorimul, his executor, for the two sums of current rupees 1,500 each, till the governours of the Foundling Hospital transmitted to us copy of a letter from Mr George Williamson (Secretary at your Presidency) to their treasurer acquainting him that in consequence of Huzzoorimul's request (a copy of which Mr Williamson transmitted to the treasurer) you had with great chearfulness taken the management of the stock into your hands by which we suppose is meant the capital of current rupees 37,500 beforementioned

84 We therefore could not but be surprized at the unexpected application we received from the governours of this hospital desiring us to authenticate your proceedings and we therefore cannot but express our disapprobation of your having taken such a step without first acquainting us with Huzzoorimul's proposal and receiving our determination thereon

85 Upon mature deliberation we have acquainted the governours of the two hospitals that we do not consent that the capital sum of current rupees 37,500 be received into our treasury at Calcutta as a fund to answer the annual sums by way of interest to be paid to these hospitals, and those gentlemen have thereupon signified to us that they are desirous the capital should be remitted to them in England, to be laid out at interest here, to which we have no objection if Huzzoorimul consents to take bills for it and remit them, but however that may be, we direct that in case the 37,500 current

Lre 8th April  
1762 [P<sub>1</sub>] 35

rupees have been paid into your treasury you make a protest by letter to Huzzoorimul that we refuse to accept this money upon the terms proposed, and if the money is not paid in you are to refuse it upon those terms, but you may accept the money at interest and give a common note for it (taking no notice of the legacy) so as to leave us at liberty to pay off and Huzzoorimul to call in the principal at any time as we or he shall think fit and upon his remitting the interest to England you are to draw the bills in common form as for cash paid in, but to take receipts for the interest and let the business be transacted in this manner till the method of disposing of the principal shall be entirely settled.

86. From the view presented to us in your letter of the 14th of February 1763 of the expences and revenues of your Presidency it appears that the former amount to the amazing sum of forty lack of rupees out of the sixty lack which you compute the revenues at so that there remains no more than twenty lack for providing your investments, for our China trade the assistance of Bombay and various other calls for money without drawing bills upon us to an amount which has been and we fear will still continue to be of great inconvenience to us however we must submit to it so far as you find really necessary for the beforementioned purposes. But as the military expence alone is computed at no less than thirty lack certainly as you observe it should be an object of your most serious attention and we accordingly most strongly recommend your reassuming the consideration of reducing the same as far as it can be done, consistently with the plan for maintaining the number of troops laid down in our letter of the 30th of December in every item that can possibly admit it and here the article of *batta* is a very striking one and as we cannot but think it may with great propriety and reason be much reduced we shall expect to hear that according to former orders as well as these you have and will seriously and earnestly set about and succeed in a work of such great importance. With care and due regard to economy we are satisfied much may be saved also in the expence of your works in short wherever savings can with propriety be made it is incumbent on and recommended to you to make them.

87. The lists which we receive from your Presidency of persons residing or trading under our protection have been hitherto very imperfect and insufficient to answer the purposes for which they are wanted. You must therefore cause exact lists to be taken every year of all persons whatsoever within the limits or jurisdiction of your Presidency specifying therein their present capacity whether they reside at Fort William the subordinates or any other place and if they have or have not the Company's licence and you are to require the Master Attendant to deliver in to you annually lists of all seafaring people employed in the Company's or private service in which he is to distinguish their stations and whether they have the Company's permission or not, and you must take care to forward to us both those lists in duplicate at least every season.

88. It being necessary for our information that we should receive from our several Presidencies as full accounts as can be procured of the several commodities imported and exported by all foreign European ships, you are therefore to be punctual in transmitting us annually such accounts from every Presidency in duplicate at least.

89 Instead of sending copies of your foreign and inland invoices received and sent as articles in the paper packets, let them be entered and transmitted to us in books kept for that purpose

90 In some of the bills of exchange drawn upon us from your Presidency, there has not been room left on the face for our Secretary here to write the acceptance which the proper officer must be directed to rectify in future

91 Several of the packets we have lately received from your Presidency have been put into boxes much too large and inconvenient to be forwarded to us by land carriage from the first port the ship arrives at, and very often their unsizeable bulks induces the captains to keep them on board till the ship's arrival in the river of Thames, by which means, we have been deprived of very necessary and important intelligence for a considerable time, and upon opening such boxes, they have been found three parts filled with cotton To prevent our meeting with such disappointment in future, you must take care to make up your packets more compact and in smaller boxes

*Eighthly concerning the West Coast*

92 Our settlements upon the West Coast<sup>16</sup> being now under the care and management of its proper Governour and Council as a Presidency by the arrival there of President Carter and our other servants, we have little more to say under this head than to express our satisfaction at the assistance you have already given towards their re-establishment, and notwithstanding it is a separate Presidency, to recommend it to you in the strongest manner to give it every assistance in your power until it arrives to that state of maturity which we hope and expect to see it in, in order to which you will have a due regard to the informations and directions you have already received or may hereafter receive from us, as also the requests that shall be made to you from time to time by our President and Council at Fort Marlborough .

93 By our directions, the said President and Council will probably renew their applications for a supply of workmen, they are in the utmost distress for want of some, and we positively direct that you give them all the assistance in this way that lays in your power whenever they request it Those you sent them some time since were so ignorant in their business, and such an useless set of people that we find they were under the necessity of returning them, by which we have been put to an extraordinary expence to no purpose, you will be particularly careful, therefore, that those you send in future are good workmen in their several professions

94 We observe with satisfaction the provision you had made and was making of opium for our settlements on the West Coast as mentioned in your letter of the 14th of February 1763 and though we make no doubt of a continuance of your care, yet we think it right to remind you of and enforce our former orders on this subject, contained in our letters to you of the 1st of April and 31st of December 1760 for reserving the trade in that article upon the said Coast to ourselves, and furnishing our President and Council there with whatever quantitys they want and indent for in the best and cheapest manner, to which we now add, in order to prevent any illicit trade therein,

that all private traders to the West Coast shall make an entry of their cargoes either at Fort Marlborough or Nattal before they proceed to other ports, under the penalty of seizure of all opium carried in such ships otherwise than on the Company's account and the offenders forfeiting our service or protection. This prohibition and the entry of the cargoes is to be in force with respect to all our Presidencies and settlements from which any trade is carried on to the said Coast, and you are accordingly so far as respects yours, to take all the care in your power to cause them to be strictly observed.

95 We continue our directions to the President and Council at Fort Marlborough to send all the pepper they can collect upon the Coast to China till they have our orders to the contrary

*Ninthly concerning the charter*

96 You will receive by the ship *Duke of Albany* His Majesty's pardons for the slave girl Cally and the two men named Chumero and Sahdee mentioned in your letter of the 8th of April 1762 and authenticated copies of the said pardons are sent by the *Transit*

97 We will turn our thoughts towards obtaining a discretionary power from His Majesty of granting pardons, which is always given to the judges of assize in England. In the mean time as there is little doubt of obtaining the King's pardon upon your applications to us, we think the capital convicts may be more at large and not shut up in the condemned hole until an answer comes from England yet they must be kept in irons and care taken to prevent escapes.

98. The war with France and Spain being at an end your difficulties with respect to the applications made to you for granting letters of marque expressed in your letter of the 30th of October 1762, are at an end also but if the case should ever exist again no such power as you mention for many weighty reasons, can ever be obtained

99 In answer to the queries from the Mayor's Court referred to in your said letter we have taken the advice of the Company's Solicitor and do thereupon inform you that it is certain no man is obliged by  
[do.] Pa. 111 law to confess that by his answer to a bill or any legal proceeding against him which may make himself liable to any pecuniary or corporal punishment inflicted by statute or the common law

100 As there are no suits in India but by bill and answer the Mayor's Court ought never to allow demurrers to the relief prayed but only to the discovery unless when the bill is so absurd that the plaintiff ought to have no relief upon his own case as for example if A brings a bill against C charging that B owes him money and without giving any reason for it prays that C may pay B's debt as A by his own shewing has no demand upon C, the demurrer of C both to the discovery and relief must be allowed but wherever a plaintiff has a right to be relieved if he proves the truth of his case, the defendant can never demur to the relief but only to the discovery of such questions the answers to which might subject him to pecuniary damages or forfeitures.

101 In the three causes specified, if the defendants had only demurred to the discovery of what might have made them liable to penalties, naming in their demurrers, the questions they objected to, the demurrers ought to have been allowed, and the causes would have gone on as they do every day in the Court of Chancery for relief, upon such evidence as the plaintiffs were able to bring in support of their complaints

102 But whenever a general demurrer to discovery and relief is put into a complaint, which if true, the plaintiff will be relieved, the whole demurrer is always overruled, because it is a standing rule that demurreurs are entire things, and can't be bad in part, and good in part, and altho' the Court would be allowed the demurrer to the discovery, yet as the relief is included in the demurrer, the whole must be overruled

103 In the three causes from the Mayor's Court, the demurrer ought to be overruled, if they went to the relief which the plaintiffs are entitled to, as well as to the discovery they have no right to, and the defendants must put in answers to the bills, whereby they are to insist, that the plaintiffs have no right to any answer from the defendants to such part of the bills as may make them liable to penalties &c. but nevertheless, the plaintiffs will have a right to prove such parts of their bills, and then the court will give such relief as is consistent with justice

104 In the case of Goullade and DeLabat against Putham, the plaintiffs being alien enemies, certainly by law the court could not entertain their suit and their being prisoners on parole, makes no difference in the question of law

105 Nothing are more frequent in England than actions against attorneys for neglect or mismanagement and they are always brought in the court of which the defendant is an attorney

106 A defendant wheresoever he may live must be served personally with the summons of the court but the leaving the body of a subpoena at his house is here good service, we apprehend no attachment or process of contempt can legally issue but upon such service of the summons or subpoena as is here mentioned, this we mean in cases where no bail is required, and where bail is required, you have very full instructions in the former and rules of practice at large and a little application to study that and the law books you are in possession of, would have made your question to us upon this head needless

107 In answer to that part of your letter of the 8th April 1763 [sic] there are hardly any collections of treaties to be procured which can be depended upon, the most compleat work of this kind we are informed of, is in French entitled *Histoire des Traités de Paix et Autres Negotiations*, in 18 volumes, folio printed at Amsterdam, it is very scarce, however, we have sent for it and if we can procure it in time, we shall send it by one of the ships of this season, if not you will have it next season with respect to the law books desired, we now send you some of the most approved and for the particulars you are referred to the invoices

Lre 8th April  
1762 Pa 33



108. And we now also send a fifth volume of the statutes at large instead  
 Lre. 30th Oct of one of the two sixth volumes put up by mistake for a  
 1/62 Pa. 110 fifth which you have returned to us.

### Supplement

109 The foregoing part of this letter was wrote before the arrival of the *Lapring* by which we received on the 4th instant by way of Fort St. George your two letters, dated the 18th of April 1763 one of them upon the general affairs of the Presidency the other upon the very extraordinary transactions with respect to the licentious private trade carried on by our servants and the unwarrantable measures taken to oblige the *Subah* Cossim Aly Cawn to submit to the unwarrantable terms, the Council thought fit to impose upon him by the deputation of Messrs. Amyatt and Hay The advices we received from Fort St. George, give us a further account of the confusion our affairs have been thrown into the natural result of those pernicious measures.

110 Before the receipt of those advices we had wrote a letter to your Presidency in consequence of our careful and impartial enquiry into the conduct of our servants in which we plainly pointed out the tendency of the measures they were pursuing and the unhappy consequences which have since really happened. In that letter which bears date the 8th instant we made the necessary alterations in the Council and gave some directions with respect to private trade and other matters of moment to which all due obedience is to be paid.

111 In the unhappy situation of our affairs in Bengal we judged it highly necessary to invest President Vansittart or in his absence the President and Select Committee for the time being with some extraordinary powers as the only means for restoring tranquility These powers are contained in our letter to you of the 9th instant and in that addressed to those persons therein referred to bearing the same date.

112 Although those persons are vested with the said extraordinary powers and their orders and directions are to be obeyed in the manner mentioned in the said letters, yet the rest of the Council and all our servants whatsoever are to continue to act in their several ranks and stations and serve the Company to the utmost of their abilities still subservient however to the said orders and directions.

113 It is with great satisfaction we observe the readiness of our President and Council of Fort St. George to send you as large a reinforcement as the circumstances they were in would possibly admit of and by engaging Admiral Cornish to send you two men of war of the line and two frigates. From their conduct on this and former occasion we have every reason to depend upon their continuing to give you all the assistance in their power for reestablishing our affairs upon a solid footing however we have thought proper to recommend and leave it to them [while] pursuing out any particular plans or modes to act in such a manner on this important occasion as circumstances may from time to time require

114 Besides the recruits we send out this season for our several Presidencies which we have before advised you of we have also this

extraordinary occasion determined to encrease the number and for that purpose we shall instead of ordering the ships *Fort William* and *Success* to Madagascar as mentioned in the beginning of this letter, dispatch them to the Coast and Bay with as many recruits as they can possibly carry, consistently with their healths and we at present believe the number in both ships may amount to about six hundred men. The terms and conditions to be agreed upon with the owners for the transport of the said recruits will be noticed in our letters by those ships.

115 One of the unhappy consequences of your troubles has been for the present at least the cutting off a source from which our China investment has had a good supply of cash. It is too late and indeed in our present situation inconvenient to send out any treasure this year for that trade. We have therefore acquainted our President and Council of Fort St George that we must depend upon their making their utmost efforts to raise a sufficient stock of money and goods to send to China for the ships of this season. As we cannot know your present condition, we can only recommend to you in the strongest manner to take the advantage of the first favourable turn in affairs to continue to supply our China supracargos with as large and early remittances as may be in your power. The importance of this object speaks for itself and therefore we have only to add that unless such supplies can be sent, the Company must unavoidably have their distresses multiplied.

116 In your letter of the 18th of April last we observe the summary account of your proceedings with respect to a snow called the *Susanna Margareta* bound from Mauritius to Negapatam, seized by Captain Stephen Iverson, Commander of the *Sulvan* country ship in his passage from Bombay, which you took possession of in behalf of the Company, judging her for the reasons therein given to be French property. Altho' she was reclaimed by the Dutch on account of her having a passport from a private Dutch merchant, as we are at present circumstanced with the Dutch, we could have wished no fresh occasions for altercations had occurred and we would as far as is possible have you avoid them for the future. How far you have been right in this transaction, we cannot say until we have a full account of your proceedings, with all the necessary documents and papers, to prove her French property, which you give us to understand will be sent by the ships *Royal George* and *Earl of Ashburnham*. As this may occasion us a good deal of trouble, you will take a careful review of the whole affair and consider whether any more informations than those by the said ships are necessary and forward them by the next conveyances. We observe you caused the said vessel with her cargo to be sold and the amount to be deposited in our cash being current rupees 23,349-9-7 where it is to lay until it is determined here to whom the same legally belongs. We cannot see with what propriety Capt Samson of the *Hardwicke* could seize upon the said vessel on her arrival in Bengal River in virtue of his letter of marque, you did right therefore in not admitting his claim, however, his pretensions will have their place in the discussion of this affair though they seem at present to be very slenderly founded.

117 According to the account you give us of the affair between the gentlemen of the Danish Company and you, the Second and Zemindar of the

108. And we now also send a fifth volume of the statutes at large instead of one of the two sixth volumes put up by mistake for a fifth which you have returned to us.

Lre. 30th Octr  
1762 Pa. 110

### Supplement

109 The beforegoing part of this letter was wrote before the arrival of the *Lapwing* by which we received on the 4th instant by way of Fort St. George your two letters dated the 18th of April 1763 one of them upon the general affairs of the Presidency the other upon the very extraordinary transactions with respect to the licentious private trade carried on by our servants and the unwarrantable measures taken to oblige the *Subah* Cossim Aly Cawn to submit to the unwarrantable terms the Council thought fit to impose upon him by the deputation of Messrs. Amyatt and Hay The advices we received from Fort St. George, give us a further account of the confusion our affairs have been thrown into the natural result of those pernicious measures.

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111 In the unhappy situation of our affairs in Bengal we judged it highly necessary to invest President Vansittart or in his absence the President and Select Committee for the time being with some extraordinary powers as the only means for restoring tranquility These powers are contained in our letter to you of the 9th instant and in that addressed to those persons therein referred to bearing the same date.

112 Although those persons are vested with the said extraordinary powers and their orders and directions are to be obeyed in the manner mentioned in the said letters yet the rest of the Council and all our servants whatsoever are to continue to act in their several ranks and stations and serve the Company to the utmost of their abilities still subservient however to the said orders and directions.

113 It is with great satisfaction we observe the readiness of our President and Council of Fort St. George to send you as large a reinforcement as the circumstances they were in would possibly admit of and by engaging Admiral Cornish to send you two men of war of the line and two frigates. From their conduct on this and former occasions we have every reason to depend upon their continuing to give you all the assistance in their power for reestablishing our affairs upon a solid footing however we have thought proper to recommend and leave it to them [while] pointing out any particular plans or in des to act in such a manner on this important occasion as circumstances may from time to time require

114 Besides the recruits we send out this season for our several Presidencies which we have before advised you of we have on this

extraordinary occasion determined to increase the number and for that purpose we shall instead of ordering the ships *Fort William* and *Success* to Madagascar as mentioned in the beginning of this letter, dispatch them to the Coast and Bay with as many recruits as they can possibly carry, consistently with their healths, and we at present believe the number in both ships may amount to about six hundred men. The terms and conditions to be agreed upon with the owners for the transport of the said recruits will be noticed in our letters by those ships.

115 One of the unhappy consequences of your troubles has been for the present at least, the cutting off a source from which our China investment has had a good supply of cash. It is too late and indeed in our present situation inconvenient to send out any treasure this year for that trade. We have therefore acquainted our President and Council of Fort St George that we must depend upon their making their utmost efforts to raise a sufficient stock of money and goods to send to China for the ships of this season. As we cannot know your present condition, we can only recommend to you in the strongest manner to take the advantage of the first favourable turn in affairs to continue to supply our China supracargos with as large and early remittances as may be in your power. The importance of this object speaks for itself and therefore we have only to add that unless such supplies can be sent, the Company must unavoidably have their distresses multiplied.

116 In your letter of the 18th of April last we observe the summary account of your proceedings with respect to a snow called the *Susanna Margaretta* bound from Mauritius to Negapatam, seized by Captain Stephen Iveson, Commander of the *Sulwan* country ship in his passage from Bombay, which you took possession of in behalf of the Company, judging her for the reasons therein given to be French property. Altho' she was reclaimed by the Dutch on account of her having a passport from a private Dutch merchant, as we are at present circumstanced with the Dutch, we could have wished no fresh occasions for altercations had occurred and we would as far as is possible have you avoid them for the future. How far you have been right in this transaction, we cannot say until we have a full account of your proceedings, with all the necessary documents and papers, to prove her French property, which you give us to understand will be sent by the ships *Royal George* and *Earl of Ashburnham*. As this may occasion us a good deal of trouble, you will take a careful review of the whole affair and consider whether any more informations than those by the said ships are necessary and forward them by the next conveyances. We observe you caused the said vessel with her cargo to be sold and the amount to be deposited in our cash being current rupees 23,349-9-7 where it is to lay until it is determined here to whom the same legally belongs. We cannot see with what propriety Capt Samson of the *Hardwicke* could seize upon the said vessel on her arrival in Bengal River in virtue of his letter of marque, you did right therefore in not admitting his claim, however, his pretensions will have their place in the discussion of this affair though they seem at present to be very slenderly founded.

117 According to the account you give us of the affair between the gentlemen of the Danish Company and you, the Second and Zemindar of the

Danish Factory taking upon them to inflict an ignominious punishment upon a *jemautdar* havildar and sepoy of the Company's on account of a trifling

Pa. 28 & 32. quarrel between them and the guard of peons at the barrier of their town they seem to have been guilty of an insult which required a suitable satisfaction but whether you should have proceeded so far as to invest their factory we cannot form a judgment until we are more fully informed from the papers which passed on the occasion. As we find that the Danish Zemindar did at last make the acknowledgment required and you in consequence drew your troops off we hope to hear nothing more of the affair Your conjecture that Mr Demarchez, who is a native of France and is Chief of the Danish Factory might have views to our prejudice in this transaction seems very probable it will be necessary therefore to have a careful eye upon the conduct of the Danes thus influenced by him. At the same time we would have you avoid with the utmost care the proceeding to extremities.

118 We find you still have intentions to erect a fort at Chittagong when you have caused a proper spot of ground to be pitched upon. We have already in the 42d paragraph of this letter given you our Pa. 34 sentiments very fully upon this head you are therefore hereby positively ordered not to set about that or any works of the like kind at any other place whatsoever without our express leave.

119 You inform us you have appointed two additional surgeons at Calcutta to succeed to the office of Principal Surgeons when those we have already nominated shall have been provided for That Pa. 41 some further assistance is necessary on account of the increased number of persons in our service civil and military we cannot but admit but with respect to the inhabitants they most certainly ought to reward the physicians who attend them at their own expence. We allow therefore of your said appointment on these conditions however that they are to be deemed assistants only and that their allowances from the Company shall be proportionably less than the Principal Surgeons.

120 You were informed in our letter of the 30th of December last that when there was a vacancy in one of the three majorities upon your establishment Captain Sir Robert Fletcher therein mentioned was to succeed as Major and take rank next below Major Knox. Th[is] event having fell out by our dismissal of Major Carnac Sir Robert Fletcher is upon his arrival to be one of the established Majors and take rank accordingly

121 We have recommended it to the President and Council at Fort St George under certain circumstances to advance Capt. Donald Campbell to a majority at that Presidency if that shall be done and the situation of our affairs in Bengal may have made it necessary for the said President and Council to send that gentleman to your assistance he is not however to take rank of Sir Robert Fletcher

122 By the advices received by the *Lapwing* it evidently appears that Mr William Ellis's conduct has continued to be such as to render him unworthy of the Company's service in any station or situation whatsoever We therefore revoke our orders for his proceeding to and being one of the Council at Bombay as mentioned in our letter of the 13th of May last and we d

hereby dismiss him absolutely from the Company's service. If this letter finds him in Bengal, you are to send him to England by the very first conveyance that offers after the receipt of this. But in case he shall be set out for Bombay, you are to signify this our order to the President and Council there by the very first conveyance that offers.

123 Captain Roddam of the ship *Godolphin* being in great want of a surgeon, we find William Carnec who had been employed in our hospital at Fort William, was spared to come to England in that ship. The pay he received for this service being inconsiderable and being in no way of getting his living here, [he] has been greatly distressed, we have in some measure relieved him and given him leave to return again to Bengal. Upon his arrival therefore, we would have him (if you think proper) employed in the station he was in before his departure from thence.

124 In addition to what is mentioned in the sixty third and sixty fourth paragraphs, we direct that you acquaint the Reverend Mr Parry, that there is at present a vacancy of a chaplain at Bombay and desire his determination in respect thereto, which you are to communicate to us and to that Presidency by the first opportunities.

125 We have appointed Mr Benjamin Wroe mentioned in the seventy seventh paragraph of our letter of the thirtieth of December last, an Ensign on your establishment, in order to conduct the troops with regularity on board the *Vansittart* whereon he takes his passage, his pay for that rank is to commence from the day of his arrival and he is to receive a commission as Ensign on the first vacancy that shall happen after his landing.

126 Considering to what a degree our forces will be increased by the large supplies of men we have sent and are levying, a suitable provision of proper persons to be trained for and to succeed as officers is necessary. We have therefore entertained more cadets than usual, and of those appointed before the dispatch of the last ships you have by lists in the packets been from time to time acquainted, but as it has since appeared necessary to make several alterations in their number, rank and destination, the lists which accompany this letter will shew you their proper disposition and are, notwithstanding such as you may have before received, to be regarded as the rule by which you are to be governed for their promotion when vacancies and their deserts shall entitle them thereto.

We are,

Your Loving Friends,

John Dorrien / Lau Sullivan / George  
Amyand / Cha Cutts / William Snell /  
Wm Webber / Richd Warner / G  
Rooke / John Manship / J Purling /  
John Harrison / Hen Hadley / John  
Browne / Robt Burrow / Fredk Pigou /  
Charles Chambers / W Thornton / Hy  
Crabb Boulton / Timothy Tullie

London,  
22nd February 1764

## LETTER DATED 23 MARCH 1764

*Further instructions on the execution of the Treaty of Paris with France—directions to restore to the French all the factories in their possession at the beginning of 1749—restoration of all French records—re-establishment of the French in the territories of the Nawab of Bengal and other princes*

OUR Presidents and Councils at Fort William Fort St George and Bombay

1 In our dispatches of the month of March 1763 we sent to you and to our several other Presidencies copies of the Definitive Treaty of Peace<sup>1</sup> just then concluded with our orders to you and to them to do every thing which the said treaty requires on our part to carry the same into full and compleat execution as far as regards your respective departments. His Majesty's orders to the commanders of his fleets and armies in India were dispatched about the same time

2 The Court of France conceiving that those orders were expressed in terms too general and having requested a more particular instruction to the Governours of Bengal Madras and Bombay His Majesty desirous of removing every difficulty that might retard the execution of the said treaty has signified to us his pleasure that we should transmit to our several Presidencies beforementioned these our further orders on this subject duplicates of which will be conveyed to you by the Commissary of the most Christian King who is now setting out for India as well as by our common conveyances

3 In obedience therefore to His Majesty's commands we repeat our orders and do hereby direct you to restore to France pursuant to the true intention and spirit of the 11th article of the said Definitive Treaty the different factories which that Crown possessed in Bengal at the beginning of the year 1749 in the condition in which those factories respectively were at the time of signing the said treaty

4 You are likewise in pursuance of the 22nd article of the said Treaty to deliver up to the said Commissary of His Most Christian Majesty or to any other person properly authorized to receive the same all the papers letters document and archives in your custody or power which were found in any of the places to be restored by virtue of the said treaty Besides these it has been signified to His Majesty on the part of the Court of France that some papers belonging to the French Company and particularly their *plurimaunds* from the Nabob were seized by the English at Muxadabad at the house of a Portuguese where [Mon]sieur Law had deposited them These *plurimaunds* and papers (if any such incident really happened for at present we know nothing of it) it is His Majesty's pleasure and our direction that they likewise be restored wherever you shall find them.

[5] You will likewise signify to the Nabob of Bengal and to whatever other princes may have entered into engagements with us during the late war





23  
Our President and Council  
at Fort William in Bengal

237

Having with the greatest pleasure derived  
from your Address by the Royal George here much of  
Company are obliged to express thanks for his gallant  
Behaviour and good Service in the Engagement at  
the Siege of the late Fort of Moully. He cannot  
in justice to his merit omit making a due  
acknowledgment for the same which We accordingly  
hereby do and to show how high that Gentleman stands  
in our esteem We have unanimously agreed to write  
the Orders for his Advancement contained in Our Letters  
of the 2<sup>d</sup> February last and We direct that he be  
forthwith restored to his Rank and Station and that  
we will upon the Receipt of this Letter order to show  
our further regard to him as well as the necessary  
only

We are

London the 10<sup>th</sup> April 1764

Your Obedient Friends

John Dering

Lawrence

John Rogers

George Thompson

Charles Thompson

Thomas Walker

John Rogers

John Rogers

John Rogers

John Rogers

John Rogers

John Rogers

not to admit the French into the countries under their dominion, that we dispense with those engagements and consent to the re-establishment of the French in India upon the terms and in the manner prescribed by the said treaty and according to the true intention and spirit thereof

[6] Finally we recommend to you to live in future in harmony with the French in India as with the other nations, in friendship and alliance with the British Crown, they on their part observing and conforming to the terms and conditions of the treaty

We are,

Your Loving Friends,

John Dorrien / Lau Sullivan / John  
Boyd/George Amyand/John Browne/  
John Manship / John Harrison / G  
Rooke/Charles Chambers/W Thornton/  
J Purling/Timothy Tullie/Cha Cutts/  
Rt Burrow/Hen Hadley/Wm Webber/  
Fredk Pigou/Christ Baron/Hy Crabb  
Boulton / Richd Warner

London,  
the 23rd March 1764

5

LETTER DATED 10 APRIL 1764

*Restoration of Major Carnac to his rank on account of his gallantry against Mir Qasim*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Having with the greatest pleasure observed from your advices by the *Royal George* how much the Company are obliged to Major Carnac for his gallant behaviour and good services in the engagement with the troops of the late Nabob Cossim Ally, we cannot in justice to his merit omit making a due acknowledgment for the same which we accordingly hereby do, and to shew how high that gentleman stands in our esteem, we have unanimously agreed to revoke the orders for his dismissal contained in our letter of the 8th February last, and we direct that he be forthwith restored to his rank and station in the service upon the receipt of this letter which to shew our further regard to him is writ upon this occasion only

We are,

Your Loving Friends,

John Dorrien / Lau Sullivan / John  
Boyd/George Amyand/John Browne/  
Timothy Tullie / Fredk Pigou / John  
Manship/Wm. Webber/W Thornton/  
Robt Burrow/G Rooke/William Snell/  
Richd Warner / Hen Hadley / Charles  
Chambers / John Harrison / Hy Crabb  
Boulton,

London,  
the 10th April 1764,

## LETTER DATED 9 MAY 1764

*Recruits and officers for Bengal—Company to support Mir Jafar—Clive appointed Governor and C in-C—abolition of Select Committees*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1 The letters we have wrote to you by the ships of this season which left England at the times mentioned in the lists in the several packets, bore date the 30th of December the 8th, 9th and 22nd February We sent also a letter directed to President Vansittart only but in his absence to the President and Governor and the rest of the Select Committee for the time being all which have gone in triplicate at least.

2 We have also directed a joint letter to you and our Presidents and Councils of Fort St. George and Bombay under date of the 28th [23rd] of March containing some further instructions and directions for the more effectually carrying into execution the Treaty of Peace between His Majesty and the Most Christian King which has been delivered in duplicate to the French ambassador here for each Presidency to be forwarded from France by a commissary from that Court. We likewise send to our said Presidencies transcripts of the same signed by us in duplicate by our own ships. Those to you go in the *Fort William* and *Lapwing*.

3 By the ship *Royal George* which arrived at Spithead on the 31st March we received your General and Separate Letters under date of the 29th of September last, together with the several other packets and letters entrusted to the care of Capt. Skottowe.

4 The gentlemen who compose the Secret Committee for this direction are Thomas Rous Esqr our Chairman Henry Crabb Boulton Esqr Deputy Chairman John Boyd Charles Cutts Henry Savage and Laurence Sullivan Esquires.

5 We have very little to observe with respect to the advices in your General Letter of the 29th of September on our mercantile concerns, the only matters of consequence to be taken notice of in this place being the loss of so many ships passage and your pressing request for a plentiful supply of fire arms. As to the latter we send as many this season as can be procured in time and the ships can conveniently carry The other point affords us matter for real concern as the loss to the Company by the want of the goods they were to have brought and the heavy expence of demorage has been and will be very great. We make great allowances for the accidents which in a great measure occasioned their detention particularly the cruizing of the French ships at the mouth of the river and therefore do not blame you at the same time we could have wished you had been forwarder in your investment and we make these observations that you may for the future exert yourselves in every endeavour to get away our shipping in a proper season to save their passages to England.

6 As we write a Seperate Letter upon the troubles in Bengal and necessary dispositions for composing and allaying them, what therefore occurs upon considering your Seperate Letter of the 29th of September on that subject will of course be therein taken notice of

7 We acquainted you in our letter of the 22nd of February last, that we had taken up the ships *Fort William*, Captain Edward Roch and the *Success*, Capt Henry Gardiner to be employed on a voyage to Madagascar to provide slaves for the use of our settlements on the West Coast, and we therein gave you the heads of the agreement between the Company and the owners of the said ships

8 In the supplement to the said letter you were informed that upon our hearing of the troubles which were unhappily broke out in Bengal, we had altered the destination of those ships and determined to send them directly to you with as many recruits as they could conveniently carry, amounting to about 600 men

9 Upon further considering the situation of affairs at your Presidency and the importance of your being supplied with as large a force as can be sent out this season, we have for that purpose taken up two other ships which will bring you about 600 more recruits, *vizt*, the *Prince of Wales*, Capt Burnet, Abercromby and the *Lord Anson*, Capt George Calbreath, Commanders

10 The said four ships *Fort William*, *Success*, *Prince of Wales* and *Lord Anson* are taken up for the run to India only and when they have duly delivered to you all the goods, stores, effects, recruits and whatever else belong to the Company, they are to be disposed of on account of the owners As we send you by each ship a copy of the agreement between the Company and owners, we refer you thereto for the terms and conditions which you are in every respect to take care are punctually complied with, and in particular that part thereof, wherein it is expressly stipulated that none of the said ships shall be sold to the French or any other European nation except the English, nor be sold to any of the country powers in the East Indies without the leave or permission of the Company's Governor and Council, Chief or Resident at such place where they shall be sold, and that at whatever settlement they shall happen to be disposed of, the purchaser or purchasers thereof shall give security to the said Governor and Council to submit to and abide by the conditions aforesaid

11 You will observe by the beforementioned agreements that two thirds of the freight of the said ships are to be paid in England and the remaining third by you, in order therefore that you may be fully informed what is paid by us and consequently what is to be paid in Bengal, we send you by each ship a stated account of what the owners receive here to the time of the ships' departure

12 If any of the said ships proceed to our other Presidencies before they are finally discharged from the service, you will take care to forward to them copies of the said agreements and all other necessary papers and informations, that our respective Governors and Councils may know how to act in compliance therewith.

13 Upon altering the voyages of the ships *Fort William* and *Success* as beforementioned we have taken up the *Beckenham*, Capt. Newman Mallack and the *Solebay*, Capt. William Richardson—Commanders, to proceed to Madagascar to purchase slaves for the use of our settlements upon the West Coast of Sumatra. These ships are hired also for the run to India only and then to be disposed of upon account of their owners. The terms and conditions agreed upon between the Company and owners are the same as those under which the ships *Fort William* and *Success* were to have performed the said voyage the heads whereof were communicated to you in our letter of the 22nd February last.

14 If either or both the said ships shall happen to come to Bengal and fall in any respect under your management we give directions to the President and Council at Fort Marlbro to forward with them the copies of their charterparties by which you will be fully informed of our agreements with the owners and be enabled so far as you may have any concern with them to comply with the terms of the said agreements.

15 We have permitted several persons to proceed this season to the East Indies to be entertained in the Company's service as surgeons at any of our settlements where they may be wanted if found deserving next after such as have been already recommended. We now send you in the several packets lists of the names of such persons signed by our Secretary and this method we shall practice in future which you are to observe as a sufficient authentication.

16 We have received a letter from the commissioners of His Majesty's navy a copy whereof comes enclosed, by which you will observe that the remains of the stores sent out for the use of the squadron under the command of Vice Adml. Cornish after all the ships are furnished with what are requisite for bringing them to England are to be tendered to our several Presidencies where they may happen to be in behalf of the Company upon the prices such like species sell for in the country or if it is desired our agents may dispose of them to His Majesty's best advantage and remit the value by bills of exchange payable to the treasurer of His Majesty's navy. We shall leave this affair so far as you may have any concern therein to your discretion to determine upon taking all or any part of such stores as may be convenient and most for the interest of the Company upon the terms offered or otherways to dispose of them in the manner desired taking care to remit to the Navy Board as well as to us regular and authenticated accounts of the same.

17 The additional number of recruits we send to your Presidency on the ships *Fort William*, *Success*, *Prince of Wales* and *Lord Anson* amounts to about twelve hundred men at least that is our intention but for a more exact information you are referred to the lists in the several ship packets.

18 The sending a proper number of officers to keep the recruits under proper discipline during the voyage and prevent mutinies being a measure found to be absolutely necessary we have appointed the following officers to proceed with them vizt

Grainger Muir	}	Captains of Infantry
John Upton		
John Nevil Parker		
John Ross		
John Tottingham		
Roger Scarlin		
Nathaniel Kindersley		Do of Artillery
Burnet Munifie		Do of Infantry
James Thomas	}	Lieutenants of Infantry
Luke Hudson		
John Shrimpton		
John Jones		
Charles Thomson		
James Piers		
Alexander Black	. .	First Lieutenant of Artillery
Weston Greenwollers	}	Ensigns of Infantry
William Denman		
Nathaniel Ford		
John Buckley		
Benjamin Bennett		
Keneth Cameron		
John Stone	}	Lieutenant Fireworkers of Artillery
Ishmael Jewell		

19 Upon the arrival of the said officers and recruits in Bengal they are to be divided between and incorporated in the three battalions of infantry and the three companies of artillery until those several corps are compleated according to the establishment laid down in our letter of the 30th of December last, regard being had that the officers and men intended for the artillery service and those for the infantry are so placed accordingly, agreeable to the rank they are named in the beforegoing paragraph, and regard being also had that the officers who have been already recommended to succeed in the said several corps are first promoted

20 If, when the battalions and artillery companies are so compleated there shall be any of the said officers and recruits remaining, they are to be formed into additional companies of infantry and one of artillery, if the latter shall be necessary, but these also are to be incorporated in the established corps whenever vacancies happen therein

21 In the mean time and until the officers can be incorporated as before-mentioned, they are to have pay according to their respective ranks from the time of their arrival in Bengal, and are to be employed in such manner wherein they may be of most use to the service

22 Capt Nathaniel Kindersley who is to succeed to the command of an artillery company in the manner beforementioned, is extremely well qualified in the engineering branch of military service, we therefore recommend him to your particular notice to be employed in that way if wanted, and to succeed to any vacancy that may happen therein agreeable to his abilities and merit

23 Mr Isaac Tullie an ensign upon the Bengal establishment and who we informed you in our letter of the 30th December is to have the option of being a lieutenant upon the Fort St. George establishment we are now to acquaint you and direct, that he have the further option of continuing in Bengal in which case you are to give him a lieutenant's commission, and he is to precede in rank all the lieutenants who are now going to your settlement in the ships *Fort William Success Prince of Wales and Lord Anson*

24 As a person well versed in the method of making gunpowder is extremely difficult to be found Mr [ ] Walton has been for three or four years qualifying himself in that manufacture and has offered his service to proceed to your Presidency next season when he will be fully master of the whole process to give you good assistance in this particular branch As an encouragement to Mr Walton we shall appoint him a factor upon the Bengal establishment to rank next after the lowest factor upon the list at the time of his arrival.

25 In our letter of 22nd February last we fully informed you of the terms upon which we had agreed to discharge the interest notes or bonds lost at the capture of Calcutta and at the same time gave you orders for discharging the principal and interest on a note or bond for current rupees 10,000 standing in the name of John Zephaniah Holwell Esqr in trust for the widow of Robert Massey deceased Mr Holwell having performed the several requisites and deposited the affidavit and security bond in our hands.

26 We have now further to inform you that Mr William Fullerton has in like manner given us a bond of indemnity and other requisites to our satisfaction in respect to a lost note or bond made out in the name of Walpole Fyre Esqr for principal current rupees 2273-12-9 We therefore hereby direct that you pay the said principal with interest due thereon to Mr Fullerton's attorney and as the said indemnity bond and other papers given by Mr Fullerton are to remain in our hands you need not require any further security or evidence relative to this demand.

27 The executors of Mr Thomas Purnell have also made the necessary affidavit and executed a bond of indemnity which are likewise to remain in our hands. You are therefore to pay without further evidence or security to the proper attorney of the executors of Thomas Purnell the principal and interest which shall be found justly due on the note or bond in the name of the said Thomas Purnell. But as we have before apprized you that current rupees 13,333-5-3 appear by your treasury account for February 1756 to have been paid off that bond you are to take care that the same be deducted from the sum of current rupees 39,016-1-6 claimed by the attorney to the heirs of Thomas Purnell in the years 1759 and 1760 as mentioned in your letter of the 30th October 1762, and you are likewise to be very careful that in calculating the interest due regard be had to that payment.

28. Since writing our letter of the 9th February last addressed to Henry Vansittart Esq President and Governor at Fort William and to him only but in his absence to the President and Governor and the rest of the Select

William

Committee, for the time being, and another letter of the same date to you directing you to act under the orders and directions of the person or persons empowered in the first named letter, the *Royal George* has brought us your advices of the 29th of September last, by which we find Jaffier Ally Khan is reestablished in the *subaship*, we therefore now inform you that the whole of our said letter is to be entirely set aside, and it is accordingly hereby revoked, and we positively direct and order that Jaffier Ally Khan be effectually supported in his government, consistent with the interest of the Company of which you will be the best judges

29 We have appointed the Rt Honble Lord Clive, President and Governor of our Presidency at Fort William and Commander in Chief of all the Company's forces there

30 We have likewise appointed Mr William Brightwell Sumner Second in Council and to succeed to the Government in case of the death or coming away of Lord Clive

31 We have thought proper also to restore Mr John Johnstone to his rank and station in the Council

32 By the next dispatches which will be in a very short time, we shall give our further sentiments and directions with respect to all the gentlemen in Council who have been dismissed or suspended the service by our orders and remain in Bengal

33 Lord Clive, Mr Sumner and Mr Sykes take their passage for Bengal in the ship *Kent*, which will be dispatched with the utmost expedition

34 The General Court having on the 8th [5th] instant come to the following resolution *vizt*

“That this General Court do recommend it to and empower the Court of Directors to agree with Lord Clive for the Payment of his Jaghure<sup>1</sup> for the space of Ten Years, provided his Lordship shall so long live and the Company shall be in actual Possession of the Lands out of which it issues, and the Revenues thereof during that period of time”

We direct therefore that all former orders from us or our Secret Committee to your Select Committee for stopping the said *jaghure*, are to cease, and all sums of money which may have been detained in consequence of those orders, are to be paid to His Lordship on his arrival, or in the mean time to his order

35 In the 4th paragraph of this letter we have given you the names of the Secret Committee, their power is to take the necessary precautions for the safety of the outward and homeward bound ships, the orders therefore they or any three of them shall give for this purpose are to be obeyed by the Governor and any other person or persons to whom they are directed

36 Having taken into consideration the powers with which the Select Committees at our several Presidencies have been invested, we have thought proper entirely to annihilate and abolish them, and the said Committee is accordingly upon the receipt of this letter to be laid aside and abolished at our Presidency of Fort William, the like orders go to our other Presidencies



37 We having upon appointing Lord Clive to be our President and Governor as beforementioned come to a resolution that if either Mr Spencer or Mr Price shall happen to be in Bengal they are to return to Bombay however if at the time of the receipt of this letter either of them are in Bengal it is our direction that such person continues there until Lord Clive arrives to take upon him the Government as we intend to send by the *Kent* on which he takes his passage the necessary directions for the arrangement of the Council

We are

Your Loving Friends

Thos. Rous / Hy Crabb Boulton /  
Gen Dudley / Lau Sullivan / Hy Sa  
vage / Wm Webber / John Manship /  
G Rooke / George Cuming / J Purling /  
Fredk. Pigou / Hen Hadley / John  
Harrison / R. Burrow / John Boyd /  
Willi Barwell / John Roberts / Charles  
Chambers.

London  
9th May 1764

7

## LETTER DATED 16 MAY 1764

*Clive's plan for reorganisation of Bengal Army*

OUR President and Council of Fort William in Bengal

1 The ships *Fort William* and *Success* which carried our last letter to you of the 9th sailed the [ ] instant by these ships the *Prince of Wales* and *Lord Anson* are herewith enclosed triplicate and copy of that letter

2 For your particular information of the consignments to the Presidency by these ships we refer you to their accompanying invoices and bills of lading and as you have already been well informed of the terms on which they are hired being the same as those the *Fort William* and *Success* are agreed for it is material only at present to recommend their respectively enclosed charterparties and freight accounts as settled here to your careful perusal and attention

3 On the recommendation of Lord Clive we have appointed the following gentlemen to the undermentioned ranks in our military service under your establishment as follows

Joseph Peach  
Henry Watson  
Robert Grant  
Thomas Sturges

as Major  
a Field Engineer and Captain  
Aide-de-Camp to his Lordship and Captain etc  
as a Lieutenant of Horse

they all take passage on the *Prince of Wales* and are to succeed in the troops according to the posts above respectively assigned them as vacancies shall happen, and in the mean time they are severally from the day of their arrival to receive the pay usually allowed to the officers serving in the like ranks

4 By our ship *Lapwing* and the *Kent*, which we hope to send away in a few days, you will receive our orders more at large on our affairs in general, and particularly with relation to the military system for forming the infantry into regiments and other regulations on the plan proposed by our President Lord Clive<sup>2</sup>

5 Our agents at Fort Marlborough under the 4th of June last describe in very affecting terms the entire neglect of assisting them with supplies not only of treasure but particularly of opium and cloth, whereby both ours and their own trade is in manifest danger of suffering the utmost prejudice and the Dutch greatly benefited, this disregard to our so frequently repeated and urgent recommendations is matter of great concern to us We see upon paper indeed preparatory measures for their aid, but these not fully and effectually executed must give the last stroke to their distress, for removal therefore, of their pressing necessities, it is incumbent upon us peremptorily to insist upon your perfect obedience to our constant injunctions for affording assistance of every kind to the West Coast, and that in future as punctual and speedy a compliance be paid to their indents as if they were made immediately from us, for we shall hold you in the highest degree answerable for the fatal consequences of an undue regard to their requests for supplies We observe that some time after the date of the said advices some assistance had been given by yours and the Madrass Presidency from the latter by means of the *Greyhound*, *Lopard* and *Lucoma* snows and the *Prince Henry* packet

6 As you are in want of able seamen to serve as pilots in the River of Bengal, you will now have a good opportunity of engaging some of the mates or other officers belonging to the four ships *Fort Wilham*, *Success*, *Prince of Wales* and *Lord Anson* which are to be disposed of in India You will do well therefore, to engage as many of them as you want and are well qualified for the said service, giving them all proper encouragement upon their engaging The like is to be done with respect to the mates and officers of the ships *Beckenham* and *Solebay* bound to the West Coast of Sumatra in case they are disposed of in Bengal

We are,

Your Loving Friends,

Thos Rous / Hy Crabb Boulton /  
George Dudley / J Purling / Fredk  
Pigou / John Manship / G Rooke /  
Hen Hadley / Peter Ducane Junr /  
Robt Burrow / Heny Savage / Cha  
Cutts / John Harrison / William Snell /  
Charles Chambers / John Roberts

London,  
16th May 1764

## LETTER DATED 1 JUNE 1764

*Tranquillity and security of commerce preferable to further territorial expansion—constitution of the Council at Fort William—Clive's allowances—Bengal military establishment—repeal of order regarding double batta—Clive's jagir—instructions regarding inland trade*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1 Your Separate Letter of the 18th of April 1763 contained a very disagreeable detail of your transactions to that time and presented us with a melancholy view of the situation of our affairs in Bengal at the eve of a war against the then Nabob Cosum Aly Cawn your following letter of the 29th of September by the *Royal George* continues the detail of your proceedings but almost contrary to any expectations we could flatter ourselves with ends with the most satisfactory account of the success of our army and that it was your belief the action near Rajamaul by taking of and driving the enemy from their works, would be decisive of the fate of the war as they seemed to repose their chief confidence in the strength of those works, and by the loss of them are, you say deprived of all supplies of provisions from Bengal and which is entirely secured to us. It is our earnest wishes [sic] that you may be right in your conjectures.

2 In former letters we have given our sentiments upon the frequent revolutions in the Government of Bengal and we still are of the same opinion that they must be productive of the greatest mischief and prejudice to the Company's affairs and therefore are at all times to be avoided. This last therefore by the reinstatement of Jaffier Aly Cawn in the *subaship* will require your utmost care and attention to make it permanent and prevent any future disturbances in the country in order to which we repeat what we have directed in our letter of the 9th of May that Jaffier Aly Cawn is to be effectually supported in his government consistently with the treaties between the Company and the said *Subah* and the interest of the Company of which you will be the best judges. It is proper to observe in this place that we are well satisfied with our present possessions, and are by no means desirous of adding to them. Their security therefore the preserving the country in a state of tranquillity and the promotion of our commercial interests are the objects which must be constantly in your view and it is our positive order that no military enterprises or expeditions be undertaken or carried into execution unless the Company's interest really and immediately requires them.

3 Before we proceed any further we are to inform you that under a just sense of the good conduct and gallant behaviour of Major Thomas Adams<sup>1</sup> in the several engagements with the troops of the late Nabob Cosum Aly Cawn we came to a resolution on the 1st May to apply to His Majesty through the Secretary at War for a superior commission for that gentleman in regard to the great services he has rendered the Company and that he may continue in Bengal with the King's troops so long as the exigency of affairs may require it.

4 Highly sensible also of the gallant behaviour and good services of Major John Carnac on the same occasions, we unanimously revoked our orders of dismission, and agreed to restore him to his rank and station in the service, which, to shew our great regard to him was signified in a letter to you in quadruplicate for this purpose only under date of the 10th of April, one of which was sent by the *York* to be forwarded from Bombay, the other three you will receive by the present conveyances

5 It is with great pleasure we are further to inform you that the Proprietors of this Company, most heartily concur with us in the highest sense of the good and gallant behaviour of those gentlemen as also of the rest of the officers and troops under their command, we cannot better convey to you their sentiments than by inserting the resolutions themselves of the General Court held on the 5th of last month, at which it is thought there was the greatest number of proprietors assembled ever known, *vizt*

“Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That the Thanks of this Court be given  
“to Major Adams for his Spirited and wise Conduct in saving the Company’s  
“Settlements in Bengal from imminent Danger

“Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That the Thanks of this Court be given  
“to the Court of Directors for their Wise and prudent Resolution for an  
“humble Application to His Majesty through the Secretary at War in favour  
“of Major Adams as mentioned in their Minutes of the 1st May, and that  
“they be desired to carry the Same forthwith into Execution

“Resolved, Nemine Contradicente, That the Thanks of this Court be given  
“to Major Carnac and the rest of the Officers and Troops who distinguished  
“themselves by their Gallant Behaviour in saving the Company’s Settlements in  
“Bengal from imminent danger under the Command of Major Adams”

6 You will notify the foregoing to the Majors Adams and Carnac and the other officers and troops in the most honourable and publick manner

7 Upon reconsidering the situation of our affairs in Bengal as advised in your letters by the *Royal George* so far as respects the several Members of the Council who had incurred our censure, we have thought proper to reinstate Mr William Ellis in the Company’s service upon the Bengal establishment We have also restored Mr John Johnstone and Mr William Hay to the service, we have likewise taken off the suspension of Mr Hugh Watts

8 These acts of lenity we hope (as we are certain they ought) will be productive of that gratitude and a proper sense of duty to the Company on the part of those gentlemen as will influence their future conduct in such a manner as may justly merit our approbation

9 Presuming that what is now said will have the desired effect, those gentlemen are constituted part of the Council as hereafter mentioned

10 As to Mr Stanlake Batson, his violent behavior in many instances has been so very extraordinary, particularly at the Council Board, that we cannot think of restoring him

11 On the 12th of March last the General Court of Proprietors having come to a resolution,

"That it was the desire of the said Court Lord Clive be requested to take upon him the Station of President of Bengal and the Command of the Company's Military Forces there upon his Lordship's arrival at the said Presidency"

12. And His Lordship having signified his acceptance of the same he is accordingly appointed President and Governour

13. We, having ordered Mr John Spencer to return to Bombay as you will observe by the 37th paragraph of our letter of the 9th of May this order extends also to Mr William Andrew Price if he shall happen to be in Bengal in lieu of Mr Spencer accordingly upon the receipt of this letter either one or the other who may happen to be there is to return to Bombay

14. Under these circumstances we have appointed Mr William Brightwell Sumner Second in Council at Fort William and to succeed to the Government in case of the death or coming away of Lord Clive.

15. Having premised thus much we are now to inform you of the names of the several persons who are appointed to compose our Council for managing and conducting all our affairs at the Presidency of Fort William in Bengal to whom all due obedience is to be paid vizt

The Right Honble Robert Lord Clive	President and Governour
William Brightwell Sumner	Second and to succeed to the Government in case of the death or coming away of Lord Clive
Brigadier General John Carnac	Third but never to rise higher in the Council
Mr William Ellis	
Mr Charles Stafford Playdell	
Mr William Bickers	
Mr Harry Verelst	
Mr John Carter	
Mr Warren Hastings	
Mr John Johnstone	
Mr Francis Sykes	
Mr William Hay	
Mr Randolph Marriott	
Mr Hugh Watt	
Mr Acanus William Senior	
Mr John Chambers	

16. We send by the ship *Kent* a commission under the Company's seal constituting the said Council accordingly however it is our further direction that in case Brigadier General Thomas Adams shall continue in Bengal with the King's troops he is to have a seat and voice at the Board when military affairs are under consideration and is to rank therein next before Brigadier General Carnac

1. Although General Carnac is to have a seat and voice in the Council

It is usual refers to the proclamation which is to be found before this letter and relating to the said seat before here for two years it has been printed at the end of the letter

in the rank beforementioned, it is meant that he is to remain fixed and never to rise to an higher station therein, and consequently is not to succeed to the Government upon any vacancy, the same to be filled up on such an event by and confined to our civil servants according to the general custom and usage of the Company

18 No other military officers are to have a seat or voice at the Board, but are to be consulted as occasions may require upon military affairs only, of which you will be the properest judges

19 Upon the decease or coming away of General Carnac, no other military officer or officers are to have a constant seat in Council without our express leave, but the next in command is to have a seat and voice at the Board upon military affairs only

20 Having considered what allowances should be made to Lord Clive as President and Governour, we have agreed to settle upon His Lordship, and he is accordingly to be allowed the sum of six thousand pounds a year to be paid him monthly, to commence upon his arrival in Bengal which, together with the one per cent commission he is entitled to as President out of the two and an half per cent coinage duty, are to be in full consideration for all his services both civil and military, consequently His Lordship is to have no allowance whatsoever by way of commission or otherwise out of the revenues from any of our territorial acquisitions whatsoever, and our order thereupon as contained in our letters of the 13th of March 1761 and the 13th of May 1763 are from this time forward to be null and void

21 We do not mean to hinder His Lordship from receiving the usual commission arising from the coral and other licensed articles consigned to him by private merchants, this His Lordship is to have the benefit of in the usual manner

22 Considering that some of the Council will be employed at the subordinate settlements in order to allow for the same and to have a sufficient number remain at the Presidency, the whole number in the rank of Council ought not to be fewer than sixteen, the President and military officer included, when therefore that number is lessened by death or otherways, we direct that the next covenant servant or servants in standing be directly taken in, if there are no well grounded reasons to prevent their admission

23 In our letters of the 30th of December and 8th of February you were informed of our appointing Brigadier General Caillaud<sup>2</sup> to command our forces at your Presidency, but in consequence of the different arrangements we have since made, we have thought proper to alter his destination and to constitute him commander of all our forces upon the Coast of Choromandel next under Major Genl Lawrence. However he does not proceed to his station until the departure of the first ship next season, on which he is to take his passage

24 In our letter of the 30th of December last, we laid down the particulars of the military plan adopted for the Bengal establishment, which is to consist of three battalions of infantry containing seven hundred men each, three companies of artillery containing one hundred men each, and two troops of horse of one hundred men in each, making together 2600 Europeans,

also four battalions of scapoys containing one thousand in each making together four thousand scapoys.

25. The said establishment is to be adhered to as to the number of men for the present however we earnestly recommend it to you to reduce it whenever it may be done with safety on the other hand we give you leave to encrease it as far as shall appear to be absolutely necessary and the exigency of affairs really requires a larger number and not otherwise.

26. Lord Clive having represented to and satisfied us of the great utility of the battalions being put into the form of a regiment by having a proper number of field officers at the head of each agreeable to the methods practised in His Majesty's forces and indeed in all the regular corps in Europe we have therefore determined that each of the beforementioned battalions of Europeans, instead of being commanded by a Major only have a Colonel a Lieutenant Colonel and a Major

27 And His Lordship having recommended the following gentlemen and we being perfectly satisfied with their character and merit do hereby direct that

Major John Carnac who has so well signalized himself in the service as has been already mentioned be Colonel of the First Battalion

Major Richard Smith<sup>3</sup> to be Colonel of the Second Battalion and Major Randfurlic Knox to be Colonel of the Third Battalion.

28. We further direct that Sir Robert Barker<sup>4</sup> have the chief command of the corps of artillery with the rank of Colonel

29 As we would have the Lieutenant Colonels and Majors promoted from the most deserving among the officers upon your establishment agreeable to their rank yet we must here add that Sir Robert Fletcher who has greatly distinguished himself in our service and to whom we gave a Major's brevet as mentioned in our letter of the 30th of December last is to be promoted according to his rank and Captain Joseph Peach recommended by Lord Clive and who has the general character of an excellent officer in His Majesty's service and to whom we also gave the rank of Major as mentioned in our letter of the 16th of May is likewise to be promoted accordingly

30 Lord Clive having further recommended Lieutenant Henry Watson to be a field engineer with the rank of Captain—Captain Grant to be Aid du Camp to his Lordship and to be a Captain on a vacancy—Cornet Sturges to be a Lieutenant of Horse we leave it to His Lordship and the rest of the Council to rank and station them as they shall see fit

31 Each of the field officers is to have a company with ten shillings a day pay and as field officers they are to have an additional pay that a Colonel fifteen shillings a day a Lieutenant Colonel ten shillings and a Major five shillings

32. Notwithstanding what is beforementioned with respect to the pay of the colonels we hereby direct that Brigadier General John Carnac in lieu of the twenty five shillings a day is to be allowed as a Brigadier General, one of the Council Colonel of the First Battalion and as Captain of a company the sum of seven hundred pounds a year in full consideration for his services

in all his said several stations except that in addition thereto he is to have an house or apartment to reside in

33 The beforegoing together with what you have been informed of relating to the military system at your Presidency in our former letters of this season are the outlines which His Lordship and you are to perfect and carry into execution as nearly conformable thereto as can be consistently done

34 His Majesty has been most graciously pleased to grant Lord Clive a brevet to take rank as a Major General in the East Indies

35 Upon our intercession His Majesty has been further most graciously pleased to grant the following brevets, *vizt*,

To Major Thomas Adams to take rank as a Brigadier General, that he may have the command next under Lord Clive so long as the King's troops continue in Bengal,

To Major John Carnac to take rank as a Brigadier General next below General Adams,

And to Majors Richard Smith and Randfurlie Knox and Sir Robert Barker to take rank as Colonels, all which brevets are for the East Indies only

36 We ourselves give Colonel's commissions under the Company's seal to the following gentlemen, *vizt* to John Carnac Esqr, Richard Smith Esqr, Randfurlie Knox Esqr and Sir Robert Barker, as to the Lieutenant Colonels and Majors they are to have commissions as such from the Governour

37 As our military system upon the Coast of Choromandel is upon the like footing as that in Bengal Colonel's commissions are given under the Company's seal to John Caillaud, Charles Campbell and Achilles Preston Esqrs

38 And upon our application to His Majesty, brevets are granted to John Caillaud Esqr to take rank as Brigadier General, also to Charles Campbell and Achilles Preston Esqrs to take rank as Colonels

39 We gave you our sentiments so fully upon the exorbitant military expences at your Presidency in our letter of the 9th of March 1763 that we have now only most positively to enforce the orders therein given for your taking every opportunity to reduce them within the most frugal bounds the general good of the service will admit of But with respect to the double *batta*,<sup>5</sup> however, we as positively order that immediately upon the receipt hereof, half of it be struck off, that is to say, all our military are to have single *batta* only in the same manner as is allowed at our Presidency of Fort St. George, and even this single *batta* we most earnestly recommend it to you to reduce whenever circumstances will admit of it

40 We need only to remind you that all our officers and others in the military department are, as they ought, and were always intended to be according to the constitution of the Company, subordinate to and under the direction of the civil power of the President and Council,<sup>6</sup> and we direct that this fundamental right be accordingly kept up and maintained in a proper manner

41 James Oldis is appointed an iron founder for Bengal, and is to take passage on the *Kent* He goes out on the same terms in every respect as



the other artificers heretofore sent is to engage to serve for five years after his arrival at ninety pounds per annum in full for wages diet money and all other allowances whatever

42. On the *Kent* will be sent the only few articles which can at present be procured for casting shot and consist of three iron cylinders, two pair of double chambered bellows and six pair of shot moulds of one pounder

43 The *Lapring* being fitted out as an advice vessel only upon her arrival therefore we leave it to your discretion in concert with the President and Council of Fort St. George to return her to England if wanted for the like purpose to employ her or dispose of her in such manner as shall be found most for the Company's interest as she is employed on this occasion, no goods are shipped on our account but we have put on board five hundred ounces of foreign silver for her use in the voyage, in case she shall be under the necessity of touching at any port for which Captain Griffin is to be accountable to you we enclose an inventory of the *Lapring* together with every thing belonging to her the account of the charges of the outset the contract of the mariners with the account of their respective wages, the manifest of private trade licensed to be shipped, the copy of the instructions to the commander and all other necessary papers.

44 The ship *Kent* one of our ships bound to Bombay with a cargo for that Presidency is ordered to proceed first to Bengal to accommodate Lord Clive, his family and attendants with a passage as also Messrs. Sumner and Sykes two of the Council as soon therefore as the said passengers and their baggage are landed as also any consignments for your Presidency you are to give the commander orders to make the best of his way to Bombay his original consigned port.

45 We have so repeatedly complained of the great inconveniences arising to us from the want of the General Books of your Presidency that we could not have apprehended it would be necessary for us to say any thing further upon the subject but we cannot help renewing our remonstrances on observing by your Consultations of the 27th June 1763 that the General Books to April 1759 only were then balanced and delivered to the Sub Accountant.

46 It is a matter of concern as well as surprize to us that when we had the greatest reason to expect your General Books compleat to April 1762, we should find them as far behind as they were two years ago and here we doubt not but you will condemn yourselves for having suffered so long Mr. Magee's delay in finishing the General Books when you had given him an allowance of Arcot Rupees 2500 per annum solely for this purpose. But as we now find you have appointed your Sub-Accountant with the same distinct allowance for completing the three remaining sets of books we hope they will be expedited as much as possible for we need not observe to you that it must be in some measure reproachful to us as well as yourselves that we should not be able to examine into the general or particular state of the accounts of so important a Presidency

47 We have further reason to complain that your other books have been by no means regularly and perfectly transmitted but as we apprehend that the business of the several offices will not now be retarded for want of a

sufficient number of hands to compleat their respective books, we earnestly recommend to your attention that for the future these be sent to us in regular succession and due course of time, and as the military expences of your Presidency have been and may continue to be an object of great importance, you must be particularly careful that the Commissary's and Military Paymaster's books be duly transmitted to us

48 We find many of our servants have taken the liberty of sending to their relations and friends copies from your Consultations, letters and other papers containing very material transactions and some of them before we have even received the originals or any account of them This is such a breach of duty to the Company as cannot be dispensed with, and therefore we absolutely forbid such practices in future, under the penalty of our highest displeasure, of which you are to give publick notice for the information of all our servants in general

49 In our letter of the 17th December 1762, we represented to you the negligence and inattention of our junior servants to the Company's business, and gave you very full directions how you were to proceed with them, sorry we are to observe that from what has occurred since, we are convinced our complaints were too well founded, we therefore enforced our said directions on the 22nd February last, and we now most positively direct that they be effectually carried into execution against every one of our said junior servants who shall continue in a neglect of his duty

50 The friends of George Godefridus Delagarde, a writer on your establishment, have informed us that a relation of his in England has settled upon him a small real estate on condition that he changes his name to George Godefridus Draycott, you may therefore permit him to take the said name of Draycott in future, if he is inclined so to do

51 By this packet we send you a duplicate of the deed of agreement<sup>7</sup> entered into between the Company and Lord Clive relative to his *jaghire* pursuant to a resolution of a General Court which is to remain in the treasury of your Presidency to be made use of in India as occasion may require We need give you no other directions relative to it than that you are to co-operate with His Lordship in procuring a grant of the reversion of this *jaghire* to the Company according to His Lordship's agreement

52 In case of Lord Clive's death before such a grant can be procured, you are to take it upon yourselves, that is to say the President and Council for the time being, to solicit for and use your best endeavours to obtain one in as effectual a manner as if His Lordship had been living to co-operate with you

53 We also send you by this conveyance and shall do so by others a deed for covenant<sup>8</sup> to be entered into by yourselves and all our civil servants and another to be executed by all the military officers which agreements are prepared pursuant to a resolution of a General Court of Proprietors held the 2nd of May last, and afterwards approved of by a subsequent General Court upon a ballot You are to take care that the same be executed by all persons in our service and that the execution of them be attested by proper witnesses, and we desire that each person may execute a duplicate and that one

part may remain with you in India and the other transmitted to us to be made use of in England as occasion may require.

54 For the reasons given in our letter of the 8th of February last we were then induced to send positive orders to put a final and effectual end to the inland trade in salt beetle nut tobacco and all other articles whatsoever produced and consumed in the country to the remarks we made in that letter we must add one observation which is, it appears very extraordinary that in a trade so extremely lucrative to individuals, the interest of the Company should not have been at all attended to or considered.

55 Those orders were sent it is true, before we received the new treaty you entered into with Jaffier Aly Cawn upon his reestablishment in the *subahship* in which it is agreed that the English shall carry on their trade by means of their own *dustick* free from all duties, taxes and impositions in all parts of the country excepting the article of salt on which a duty of two and a half per cent is to be levied on the *rozanna* or Houghly market price wherein it is further agreed that the late *perwannahs* issued by Cosim Aly Cawn granting to all merchants the exemption of all duties for the space of two years, shall be reversed and called in and the duties collected as before.

56 These are terms which appear to be so very injurious to the Nabob and to the natives, that they cannot in the very nature of them tend to any thing but the producing great heart burnings and dissatisfaction and consequently there can be little reason to expect the tranquillity of the country can be permanent the orders therefore in our said letter of the 8th of February are to remain in force until a more equitable and satisfactory plan can be formed and adopted which as it is [is] impossible for us to frame here destitute as we are of the informations and lights necessary to guide us in settling such an important affair

57 You are therefore hereby ordered and directed as soon after the receipt of this as may be convenient to consult the Nabob as to the manner of carrying on the inland trade in salt beetle nut tobacco, and the other articles produced and consumed in the country which may be most to his satisfaction and advantage the interest of the Company and likewise of the Company's servants.

58 You are thereupon to form a proper and equitable plan for carrying on the said trade and transmit the same to us accompanied by such explanations observations and remarks as may enable us to give our sentiments and directions thereupon in a full and explicit manner

59 In doing this as before observed, you are to have a particular regard to the interest and entire satisfaction of the Nabob both with respect to his revenues, and the proper support of his government in short this plan must be settled with his free will and consent and in such a manner as not to afford any just grounds for complaint

60 In the next place the utmost care and attention must be bestowed in forming the said plan that in some proper mode or shape a just and equitable consideration be secured for the Company

61 If any inconveniencies shall be apprehended to arise to the Company's investments upon carrying on such an inland trade you are to give us your full thoughts thereupon and in what manner they may be obviated.

62 You are to give us your impartial and unbiassed thoughts also whether the carrying on this inland trade may affect the just rights and privileges of the French, Dutch or any other Europeans, and tend thereby to draw on any national altercations and embroils which are by all means to be avoided in forming the said plan, therefore you are to be particularly careful to prevent these or any other evils of the like kind

63 And here let it be remarked that no persons whatsoever have a right to trade within the limits of the Company's charter without their licence if any new tracks of land are fallen into Surely therefore the Company's interest ought to have the preference and be equitably considered in order to induce them to permit their servants to participate in the advantages resulting from such trade

64 In the 20th paragraph of this letter we have mentioned that the sum of six thousand pounds a year is to be allowed Lord Clive as President and Governour We do not mean that sum is to include his extraordinary expences, in case His Lordship shall at any time be under the necessity of taking the field We therefore direct that all such expences be borne by the Company and paid to His Lordship out of our cash in Bengal accordingly, in which all the frugality is recommended that is consistent with the service

65 The said six thousand pounds a year is intended as an appointment to Lord Clive only and not to be allowed to any future President and Governor We therefore direct that any person who shall immediately and in future succeed to the Government after His Lordship, be allowed, over and above the commission on the coinage duty, three thousand pounds a year as settled in our letter of the 13th of March 1761 for salary, expences of his table and all other charges and expences whatsoever as President and Governour

66 Notwithstanding the directions in our letter of the 8th of February last for the dismissal of Mr Batson and sending him home in one of the ships that will be dispatched in the season of the year 1765, we do at the request of his friends permit him to continue in Bengal to settle his own private affairs, a year from the time of your receiving the said letter, but you are to observe he stands dismissed from the Company's service as directed in that letter and confirmed in the 10th paragraph of this

67 The General Court of Proprietors having on account of the critical situation of the Company's affairs in Bengal requested Lord Clive to take upon him the station of President and the command of the Company's military forces there, His Lordship has been appointed President and Governor accordingly as mentioned in the preceding part of this letter The intention of the General Court in desiring Lord Clive to go to Bengal was, that by His Lordship's character and influence, peace and tranquility might be the easier restored and established in that *subahship*, in order therefore to answer these purposes in a manner that we apprehend may prove most effectual, we have thought proper to appoint a committee<sup>10</sup> on this occasion consisting of His Lordship, Mr William Brightwell Sumner, Brigadier General Carnac, also Messrs Harry Verelst and Francis Sykes to whom we do hereby give full powers to pursue what means they shall judge most proper

to attain those desirable ends. But however in all cases where it can be done conveniently the Council at large is to be consulted by the said committee, though the power of determining is to be in that committee alone. We further direct that as soon as peace and tranquility are restored and established in the *subahship* of Bengal then the said extraordinary powers are immediately to cease and the said committee be dissolved.

68. As we would have the said committee so long as it is necessary to exist as beforementioned to consist of five members, in case therefore of a vacancy or vacancies by death or absence from Fort William they are to be filled up by the said committee out of such of the civil members of the Council as they shall think proper from time to time.

69 We are also to inform you and direct that the said committee is to be the committee for defending the settlement in case of being attacked by an enemy agreeable to the directions and rules laid down in our letter of the 12th of May 1758 to which is to be added Sir Robert Barker the Colonel and commandant of the corps of artillery

70 The powers of the said committee are by no means meant to invalidate or dispense with or in any way prevent the carrying strictly into execution the orders contained in the 53rd paragraph of this letter with respect to the deed of covenant all our servants both civil and military are to enter into according to the true intent and meaning of the said covenant.

71 In consequence of the arrangement we have made of the Council at our Presidency in Bengal and the ordering Mr Spencer to return to Bombay as mentioned in this letter Mr Spencer is to be informed that we have appointed him Second in Council at Bombay and that he is to succeed to the Government there in case of the death or coming away of Charles Crommelin Esqr the present President and Governour

We are

Your Loving Friends

Thos Rous/Hy Crabb Boulton/J  
Purling/Chrstr Baron/Henry Savage/  
John Manship/Geo. Dudley/Wm.  
Webber/Charles Chambers/John Harri  
son/Fredk. Pigou/Cha Cutts/George  
Cuming/John Roberts

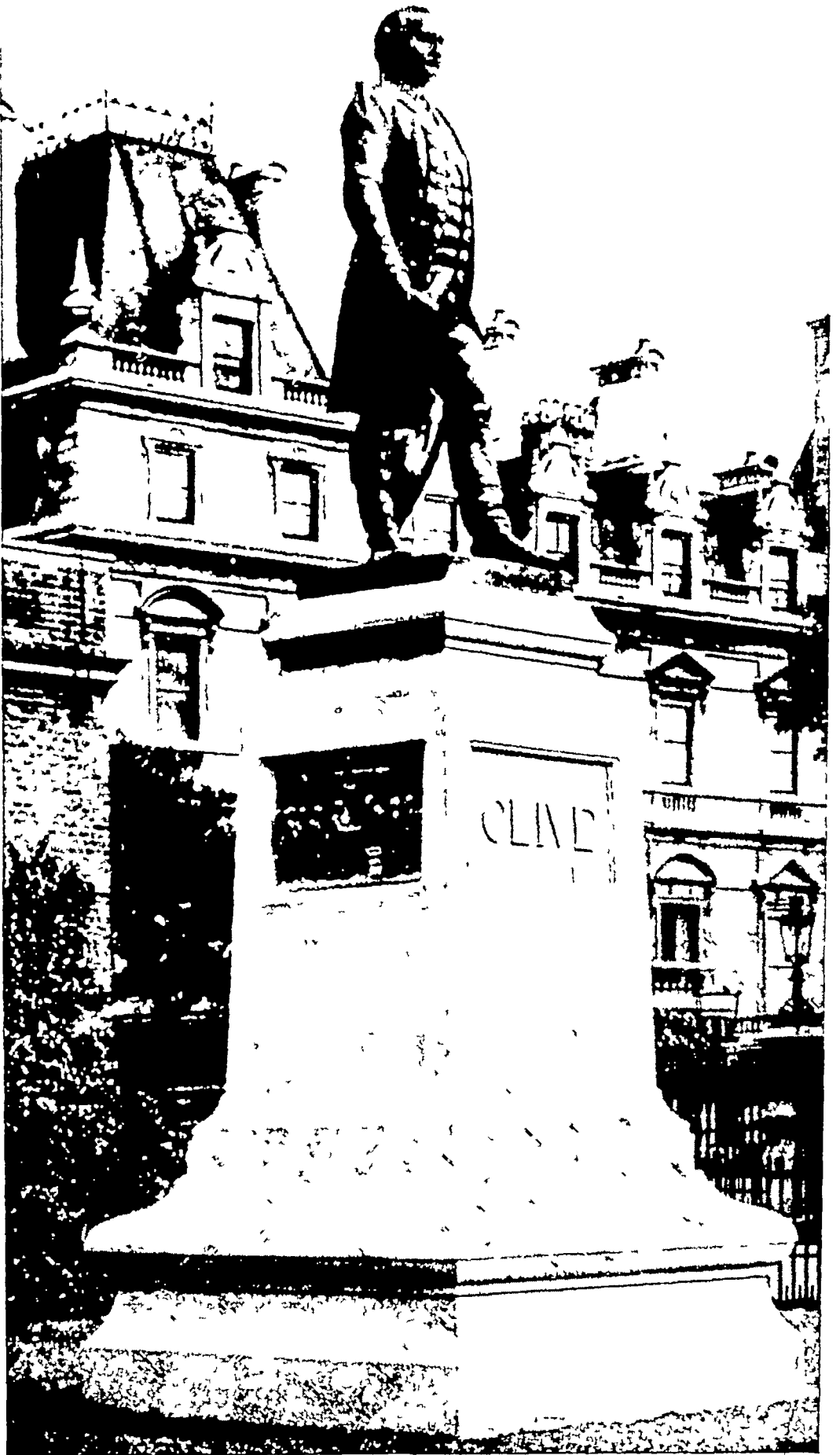
London

1st June 1764

*Proclamation for the appointment of Lord Clive as Governor and C-in-C  
—constitution of the Council at Fort William*

The United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

To all to whom these presents shall come send greeting know ye that we the said United Company reposing especial trust and confidence in the felicity prudence justice and circumspection of the Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive Baron Clive of Plassey in the Kingdom of Ireland and Knight



Monument to Lord Clive at Whitehall, London



of the most Honourable Order of the Bath, have made, constituted and ordained, and by these presents do make, constitute and ordain the said Robert Lord Clive, to be President and Governor of and for all the said Company's affairs in the Bay of Bengal and other the places and provinces thereunto belonging in the East Indies and also to be our Governor and Commander-in-Chief of our Fort William in the Bay of Bengal and all the towns and territories thereunto belonging and of all and singular the forts, factories and settlements, lands, territories, countries, and jurisdictions belonging to us within the *subahship* of Bengal, and of all the forces which now are or hereafter may or shall be employed for the service of the said United Company in the said forts, towns and places, and to execute all and every the powers and authorities thereunto appertaining, by order and direction of the Court of Directors of the said United Company for the time being, and to continue in the exercise of the same during our and their pleasure, and until the contrary thereof shall be signified under the seal of the said United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies, or under the hands of thirteen or more of the Court of Directors of the said Company for the time being And to the end the said Robert Lord Clive may be better enabled to order and manage all the affairs of the said United Company, we do by these presents constitute and ordain William Brightwell Sumner Esqr to be second of our Council of Fort William next after our said President Robert Lord Clive, Brigadier General John Carnac to be and continue third of our said Council, and not to rise to a superior rank therein, Mr William Ellis to be fourth, Mr Chas Stafford Playdell to be fifth, Mr William Billers to be sixth, Mr Harry Verelst to be seventh, Mr John Cartier to be eighth, Mr Warren Hastings to be ninth, Mr John Johnstone to be tenth, Mr Francis Sykes to be eleventh, Mr William Hay to be twelfth, Mr Randolph Marriott to be 13th, Mr Hugh Watts to be 14th, Mr Ascanius Wm Senior to be 15th and Mr John Chambers to be 16th and last of our said Council of Fort William for governing and managing all the said Company's affairs in Bengal, and the places and provinces belonging to us as aforesaid And we do hereby give and grant unto our said President and Governor Robert Lord Clive and to our Council aforesaid, or the major part of them (the Council being duly summoned) full power and authority from time to time to rule and govern all and every our factors and servants under the said Presidency, and all the soldiers and inhabitants of our said Fort William and all the towns and territories thereunto belonging, and of all and singular the forts, factories and settlements, lands, territories, countries and jurisdictions belonging to us within the *subahship* of Bengal, to administer lawful oaths as occasion shall require, and to do and perform all such other acts and things and to use and exercise all such other powers and authorities as the said President and Governor and his Council in their several and respective places where the said United Company have or shall have factors or any places of trade are authorized to do, according to such instructions and directions as the said Robert Lord Clive our President and Governor and Council aforesaid shall from time to time receive under the hands of thirteen or more of the Court of Directors of the said United Company for the time being And we the said United Company hereby order and require all our factors, servants, officers and soldiers, within the limits of the said Presidency, and all the people and inhabitants of the said Fort William and all the towns and territories thereunto belonging, to



conform submit and yield due obedience unto him the said Robert Lord Clive our said President and Governor and his Council accordingly And forasmuch as it is altogether necessary that in case of the death or removal of the said Robert Lord Clive, our Presidency should be provided for the defence and government thereof we do therefore by these presents ordain and appoint that in such case the said William Brightwell Sumner Esqr shall immediately be and succeed in the place and charge of President and Governor of Fort William aforesaid, and in case of his death or removal, the next in degree of Council below the said Brigadier General John Carnac, shall succeed in the said Presidency and Government in as full and ample manner and with as large and ample powers, privileges and authorities as are hereby granted unto the said Robert Lord Clive until our further pleasure be known therein. And we do hereby revoke repeal annul and make void every former commission or commissions given and granted by us whereby any other person or persons was or were constituted and ordained President and Governor and any other persons therein named were constituted and ordained to be of the Council at Fort William aforesaid. In witness whereof we the said United Company have caused our common seal to be affixed to these presents the one and thirtieth day of May in the fourth year of the reign of His Most Excellent Majesty George the Thurd by the grace of God of Great Britain France and Ireland King Defender of the Faith and so forth, and in the year of our Lord 1764

Signed by order of the  
Court of Directors  
of the said United  
Company

LS  
Robt. James, Sec.

## LETTER DATED 20 JUNE 1764

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

Our last letter bore date the 1st of this month and went in duplicate by the *Lapwing* snow and the *Kent* the first of which sailed from Spithead the 3rd and the other the day following. The *Dolphin* accompanied by the *Tamar* frigate are now under their dispatches for the East Indies, by this conveyance in His Majesty's frigate the *Dolphin* is sent a triplicate of the said letter. The *Osterley* directly from your Presidency arrived at St. Hellens on the 17th instant by which we received your General and Separate Letters both

under date of the 19th of December last, together with the several other letters, books and papers agreeable to the lists transmitted with them

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
T Rous / H C Boulton / C Baron /  
W Webber / J Manship / C Cutts /  
C Chambers / W Barwell / H Savage /  
W Snell / R Burrow / J Roberts / G  
Cuming / P DuCane Junr / J Purling /  
J Harrison

London,  
20th June 1764

10

## LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1764

*Shipping news—Nauab of Arcot's proposal to clothe his troops with  
perpets—mutiny in the army viewed with concern—edict regarding French  
East India Company*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 Our last letter to your Presidency went in duplicate by the *Lapwing* snow and the *Kent* under date of the 1st of June 1764, and we took the opportunity of sending a triplicate in His Majesty's frigate the *Dolphin*, under cover of a short letter for that purpose only, bearing date the 20th of the same month

2 You have been already informed of our having received the several letters from your Presidency by the *Lapwing* via Fort St George on the 4th February, by the *Royal George* on the 1st April and by the *Osterley* on the 13th of June last, since the receipt of your said dispatches, your advices by the *Pigot* came to our hands on the 8th of October

3 The ship *Tilbury* being now on her departure for Fort St George, we embrace this first opportunity of sending by her the following general informations and directions for your immediate notice and guidance, deferring our other advices for the next conveyances, which you will form a judgment of, by observing the times proposed for the dispatch of our several ships as mentioned in the following part of this letter

4 We have the satisfaction of informing you that since the last advices we sent you of the arrival of our shipping, the following have safely imported, viz the *Britannia* on the 28th of June, *Hector*, *Egmont* and *Hawke* on the 5th, 16th and 23rd of July, the *Neptune*, *Falmouth*, *Cruttenden* and *Houghton* on the 4th, 7th, 14th and 17th of August, all from China The *Havannah* from China, Manilha and Fort Marlborough, the 15th of September, the *Pigot* from Bengal the 8th of October, the *Glatton* from China and the *Speaker* from Bombay arrived the 3rd and 10th instant.

to Canton the *Essex* and *Ankerwyke* directly for Canton the *Grosvenor* and *Thames* bound to the West Coast of Sumatra and thence to Canton also the *Albion*, *Royal Captain* and *Horsendon* consigned to Fort St. George and Canton.

14 Messrs Burrow and Walton take passage on the *Ankerwyke* and Messrs. Searle Thomas and Bevan in the *Essex* all the other gentlemen of the Council are now in China.

15. The supra cargos appointed Residents at Canton for the year 1766, are Messrs. Thomas Fitzhugh Nathaniel Garland William Mackenzie Stephen DeVisme, Thomas Smith William Rous and Thomas Bevan who are as usual to conduct and take care of the Company's affairs upon the departure of such of the beforementioned Council as are to leave China in the season of the year 1765 and before the arrival of those supra cargos we shall appoint members for the succeeding Council.

16. If it shall happen that you have occasion to send any ship or ships under the description of casual ones to China you are agreeable to former orders to lade on them cargos to the amount of £20,000 each at least but the more you exceed that sum the greater will be the service to the Company

17 We positively forbid the commanders of all our China ships calling at Batavia which you are also to do with respect to any of our ships that may be sent thither from your Presidency

18 By our instructions to the China Council we continue our orders for the homeward bound China ships to call at the West Coast and carry such stores thither as the President and Council of Fort Marlborough shall indent for and can be conveniently laden on them as also to afford them an opportunity of transmitting to us their advices and the necessary dispatches.

19 The *Royal Charlotte* being to proceed from Bombay for Mocha as beforementioned the following named persons are the supra cargos we have appointed for managing the affairs of that voyage viz., Mr James Collinson Capt. John Clements and Mr Thomas Mathewson.

20 We have given directions to the Presidency of Fort St. George to forward the several consignments and military recruits intended for you as soon as possible.

21 Agreeable to our usual method we are now to inform you of the principal articles of our intended export this season not only for your Presidency but likewise for every other part of India and China as follows, viz.,

*For the Presidency at Fort William*

- 816 bales of cloth
- 7 bales of sundry other piece goods
- 100 tons of lead
- 130 tons of copper
- 50 tons of iron
- 10 tons of steel
- [ ] tons of tin
- 9 tons of cordage
- 400 barrels of gunpowder
- 125 pipes of Madeira wine

The bales go in equal proportions on the new ships Capt[s] Fenner, Barkley and Payne

The lead 40 tons on each of the new ships Capts Brooke and Barkley and 20 tons in the new ship Capt Fenner

The copper in nearly equal proportions on the new ships Capts Brooke, Barkley and Fenner

The iron 20 tons on the new ship Capt Fenner and 30 in the new ship Capt Payne

Madeira wine on the new ship Capt Brooke

*For the Presidency of Fort St George*

818 bales of cloth

79 bales of long ells

4 bales of sundry other piece goods

100 tons lead

150 tons copper

50 tons iron

5 tons steel

21 tons cordage

200 whole } barrels gunpowder

400 half }

125 pipes Madeira wine

The bales go in equal proportions on the ships *Albion*, *Royal Captain* and *Horsendon*

The lead 40 tons on each of the ships *Tilbury* and *Royal Captain* and 20 tons in the *Albion*

The copper in nearly equal proportions on the ships *Tilbury*, *Albion*, *Royal Captain* and *Horsendon*

The iron 30 tons on the *Horsendon* and 20 on the *Albion*

The steel on the *Horsendon*

The wine on the *Tilbury*

*For the Presidency at Bombay*

1330 bales cloth

210 bales long ells

56 bales broad long ells

16 bales sundry other piece goods

100 tons lead

282 tons copper

200 tons iron

30 tons steel

240 barrels of gunpowder

50 pipes Madeira wine

715 bales cloth

20 bales shalloons 10 pieces each bale

10 cases sattins

764 bales cloth

100 bales long ells

82 bales cloth

20 bales long ells

} for the Bombay market

} For the Bussorah market

} for the Bushire market

} for the Scindy market

All the bales and the copper go in equal proportions or nearly so in the six ships bound to Bombay

The lead equally on five of the Bombay ships the *Fox* having none.

The wine on the *Clive* and other particulars in the most convenient manner

*For the Presidency of Fort Marlborough*

30 chests treasure

50 tons iron

5 tons steel

tons tin

10 tons flour

83 half hds [hundredweights] beef and pork

60 barrels gunpowder

18 tons cordage.

20 tons ironmongers ware of sundry sorts such as anchors, grapnals, & ca 26 tons shot & shells. All which articles are nearly divided in equal proportions on the two ships bound first to Fort Marlborough.

*For Canton*

£250,000 in treasure

418 bales cloth

443 bales long ells.

26 bales camblets

10 bales hairbines

1340 tons lead

The treasure goes 40 chests in each of the direct ships and the rest nearly in equal proportions on the others.

The bales are equally divided on the two direct China ships.

The lead 200 tons on each of the two direct China ships and the two St. Helena ships, 150 tons on each of the two ships bound first to the West Coast and 60 tons in each of the four ships bound first to Fort St. George

22. It is with particular satisfaction we observe that the Nabob of Arcot has made a proposal for cloathing his troops with *perpets* which our Presidency of Fort St. George have indented for accordingly and that he had likewise promised to think of some scheme for selling the cloth. This we hope will be a considerable means of extending the export of woollens and as you well know we have always had this object greatly at heart we would have you use your utmost endeavours to introduce the use of our woollens not only in the cloathing of all our own troops but those of the Nabob likewise and we expect you will consider of and carry into execution any other measures which can be found feasible for increasing the vend of the woollen manufacture to as great an extent as possible

23. Having only pointed out in the foregoing account the most material articles reference is to be had for other particulars to the several ships invoices by which our several Presidencies and you in particular with respect to Fort William will be informed in what manner the indents have been complied with for stores and necessaries of various kinds which we

have done as far as appeared to us to be really necessary, and the room in our shipping can admit of With respect to small arms as you have been very pressing for a large supply and we are sensible of the necessary thereof we shall this season fully comply with your indents

24 Our agents at the Island of Madeira are directed to make a regular consignment to you by invoice and bill of lading of the 125 pipes of wine to be shipped by them on the new ship Capt Brooke as beforementioned, as it has been near a year in warehouse and they have assured us the quality is good We hope it will prove to your satisfaction, however, you are to give us a particular account how it turns out both with respect to the quality and the condition of the casks, taking care that the owners are made accountable to the Company for any deficiencies arising from bad stowage or pilferage on board

25 As our Presidency at Fort Marlborough is in great want of Madeira wine, you are hereby directed without fail to send thither by the first good conveyance 5 of the said 125 pipes We have given the like directions to the President and Council at Fort St George to send the same quantity out of that consigned to them

26 You are strictly to comply with out repeated orders for furnishing our settlements upon the West Coast of Sumatra such goods, stores and necessaries as they apply for and whatever else they stand in need of, and this is to be done from time to time by the earliest and all good conveyances which offer or you can contrive

27 We have been informed from the Right Hon'ble the Lord of the Admiralty, that no naval or victualling stores will be sent to India this season on the Government's account And as we have not heard of any cloathing or stores being designed for His Majesty's land forces, we conclude none will be sent, especially as the said forces are under orders for their return home except such as enter into the Company's service

28 Being sensible of the difficulties you have been under to send sufficient remittances of silver for the investments made annually in China as appears by your several advices particularly in those lately received, we send thither this season as you will observe in the 21st paragraph to the amount of £2,50,000 But as the said treasure and the other consignments, will not be nearly adequate to the demands for this important service, we shall however expect and depend upon it, that you have continued your best endeavours to make, agreeable to our repeated recommendations and orders, such a provision of treasure and other articles to be forwarded forthwith to our China Council as will not only enable them to dispatch the ships on their hands, but also to leave a stock with the resident *supra* cargos to begin an investment for the ships of the following season

29 As we can not know what remittances will be made to China from yours and our other Presidencies before the receipt of this, or indeed the number of ships to be provided for as some of the last season may be there, it is impossible for us to form a judgement of what may be wanted We can only in general say that if possible each ship's invoice from Canton is to amount to £30,000, that the total value of the consignments from hence to Canton this season is £3,17,250 *vizt* in treasure £2,50,000, lead £20,050, and the

bale goods to £47,200 From this information from the remittances you and our other Presidencies will have made before the receipt of this, and the number of ships you must well know or have good reason to suppose the China Council will have on their hands, you will be able to form an estimate of the sums wanted, and you are to use your best endeavours to send accordingly as before directed such an additional and if possible sufficient supply as the service requires, by the way of Fort St. George and by all good conveyances which offer

30 We give our China Council liberty from time to time to take up such sums of money as they stand in need of (if they have any opportunity of so doing) for bills of exchange upon our several Presidencies such therefore as are drawn upon you must be duly honoured.

31 As we must in a very great measure depend upon yours and our Fort St. George Presidencies contributing every year to the utmost of your abilities towards furnishing our agents in China with goods and treasure to carry on their investments, you are therefore to have this object constantly in view and lose no opportunity of making the most timely provision and remittances accordingly and you are from time to time to give us the earliest informations how far you shall be able to comply with this standing order that we may not be at a loss in future to make the necessary dispositions with respect to the amount of the consignments to Canton from hence.

32 To prevent any ships laying at Canton a season extraordinary for want of the means of furnishing them with cargoes you are to observe that none under the description of casual ones are to be sent thither at any time unless they can have consignments to the amount of £20,000 and upwards on each and also that such consignments are forwarded to Canton in addition to those we send as will enable the China Council to dispatch home the ships regularly belonging to their or any former commission with cargoes to the amount of £30,000 if possible as mentioned in a former part of this letter and also to have a surplus stock remaining in China to begin the investment for the following season. This is to be observed as a standing order from year to year until we give orders to the contrary

33 If any of our ships should lay the Watson [walls?] in China for want of a cargo it will tend greatly to the discredit as well as loss of the Company In order therefore to prevent such a misfortune as far as possible we give you this early notice and positive order that you send no ship to China next year on any pretence whatsoever under the description of a casual one unless she can have a cargo to the amount of £20,000 and upwards as before directed.

34 We cannot send you by this conveyance a list of the investment to be made at your Presidency the ensuing season you are however to be making as early and considerable a provision of the several sorts of goods usually provided for the Europe market as you possibly can

35 You must continue your utmost endeavours to provide as large a quantity of saltpetre as possible as well for the supply of your own occasions as those of our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay whom we have directed to give you the earliest advices of their wants

36 Agreeable to our directions last year we would have as large a proportion of bale goods laden on every ship as the situation of your invest

ment will admit of You will observe upon reference to the charterparties that the Coast and Bay ships this season carry half kintlage in iron, the other half must necessarily be made up in saltpetre, but if you shall happen to want a sufficient quantity of bales, in such case the charterparty tonnage is to be compleated in saltpetre In loading the several ships you are, agreeable to our repeated directions, to put every one as nearly as you can upon the same footing in point of tonnage

37 Altho' we do not propose by this conveyance to make any observations upon the general occurrences of your Presidency, yet there is one circumstance of so interesting and alarming a nature that we cannot avoid taking this immediate notice of it We mean the mutiny in the army<sup>3</sup> as advised in your letters of the 27th of February and the 19th of March last received by the *Pigot* As the late Nabob Meer Cossim was drove out of the provinces and his reception by the King and Shuja Dowla seemed to be favourable rather through the influence of his money than on any other consideration, there was great probability you had no reason to apprehend any considerable troubles from that quarter, provided the army had continued firm in their duty But it is with the utmost concern we observe, Meer Cossim had as you expected made use of this unhappy disorder as an argument to persuade Shujah Dowla to espouse his interest and invade Bengal, and that preparations were making by those powers accordingly At the same time it is some satisfaction to us to find you had little doubt of defeating all the attempts of Shujah Dowla, should he even continue the design of marching towards Bengal when good order was restored in the army Your last letter informs us Major Carnac was using his endeavours with the troops accordingly, and happy shall we be in learning by your next advices that he had effectually succeeded in this salutary and necessary work Your requesting Commodore Tinker to remain with and assist you with his marines and the detaining on this occasion that part of the Bombay detachment which had not left the River, were very proper measures and we hope their junction with the army will have answered your expectations

38 We can only learn by your said letters that the mutiny took its rise among the European soldiers and afterwards extended to the seapoys on their conceiving they were injured in their share of a donation promised them by the Nabob The commission officers do not appear to have been concerned in this mutiny whereas if the grievance had been general, we must suppose we should have heard something of their discontent, but as that seems not to be the case, we apprehend if they had attended properly to their duty, they might have discovered this mutinous spirit in the troops and quelled it in time to have prevented the complying with their unreasonable demands

39 We have that confidence in the ability and influence of Major Carnac as to give us good reason to hope he has succeeded in removing the late mutinous disorder, however, it is highly incumbent on you, and we shall accordingly expect you will take every prudent measure you can think of to allay and keep down the spirit so inconsistent with true discipline and which as you rightly observe had well nigh thrown our affairs into greater danger than all the strength of our enemys



40. If there should be any remains of this mutinous spirit among our troops upon the arrival of our President and Governour Lord Clive, we are satisfied he will exert his utmost endeavours to restore that order and discipline among them which are absolutely necessary for the preservation of all we enjoy at your Presidency and we earnestly recommend the firm establishment thereof as an object of the utmost importance to the Company

41 We have appointed the following named young gentlemen to be writers upon the Bengal establishment who are to be ranked in the order they are named *viz.*, Charles William Boughton Charles Ingram John Barwell John Savage Charles Hutchinson Purling Herbert Harris William Young George Robertson Robert Burford, Henry Faugon Gerard Gustavus Du Carell Rivers Grindall John Fage, William Byam Martin Willm. Pyc John Rosewell, Thomas Henchman Jeffrey Wilkins, William Hippisley Cox, George Bright William Michell Gideon Johnstone John Marjoribanks James Irwin Samuel Lewis and Isaac Eynard.

42. Of the above writers Messrs. Martin Johnstone and Lewis are already in Bengal You are to give them immediate notice of their appointment and take care that they execute the covenants we send you for that purpose which being done and properly witnessed they are to be returned to us by the first conveyances.

43 Upon the arrival of such of the said writers as proceed from hence you are as usual to enquire whether they met with proper treatment in the passage aboard the respective ships and report the same to us.

44 The addition of such a number of writers to the covenant servants already upon your establishment will if they are all properly kept to their duty agreeable to the very particular and positive orders laid down and enforced in our letters of the 17th December 1762, 8th and 22nd February and the 1st June 1764 and which must on no account be deviated from be fully sufficient to carry on the several branches of our business. Our principal motive for the beforementioned great supply of writers is that you may not have the least pretence to suffer any monthly writers or black people to be employed in any of your offices for the future either at the Presidency or the subordinates who are hereby positively ordered to be discharged.

45 We are informed that Mr John Peter Boileau whom we have chosen a writer upon the Fort St. George establishment is at present in Bengal. You are therefore to give him immediate notice to repair forthwith to his said station.

46. We find by your last advices Mr Henry Plowman one of our Fort Marlborough covenant servants was then in Bengal. As we can not dispense with his abating himself any longer you are to acquaint him it is our express order that he do forthwith proceed to his station at the said Presidency. However if he is in charge of Governour Vansittart's private concerns we do admit of his continuing in Bengal until he has discharged that trust

47 Agreeable to the rule laid down in our letter of the 1st of June last we send and shall continue to do so regular lists signed by our Secretary of all such surgeons as have our permission to proceed to India who are to be

provided for if found deserving at any of our settlements, after such as have been already recommended.

48 And we shall as usual send you from time to time lists of free merchants, persons in the seafaring way, and all others who have or shall have our leave to reside in India under the Company's protection

49. Upon considering the situation of our affairs both upon the Coast of Choromandel and in Bengal, as represented in the advices lately received, and the necessity thereupon of having the military establishments at each fully complected and kept up, we have come to a resolution of sending out this season 1800 recruits to be divided between each Presidency, but as in all human probability there will be more wanted in Bengal than upon the Coast of Choromandel, the largest proportion is to be forwarded thither accordingly, on which we shall be more particular in our next advices

50 We purpose to convey the said 1800 recruits in the following manner vizt,

100 on this ship the *Tilbury*

360 in the three other Coast and China ships

480 in the four Coast and Brn ships

300 in the ship *Hector* taken up on this occasion for the run to India only

560 by some other conveyances not yet determined upon

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1800

51 Instead of mentioning in our letters the names of the cadets, we shall continue the method of transmitting you in the several packets regular lists of them, and it is our direction that they be promoted in the order we there place them if they behave well

52 We send for your information a copy of the French King's edict<sup>4</sup> containing a confirmation of the establishment of the India Company under the title of Trading Company given at Compeigne in the month of August 1764, by which it appears that as the King would give the said Company the most sensible marks of a most powerful and beneficial protection, he takes back the Isles of France and Bourbon, and charges himself with the expences relative to this object With respect to trade and their other affairs, the Company alone are to govern them, presenting constantly to the King, for His Majesty's approbation, the by laws and rules they shall think proper What plan the French Company intend to pursue, does not appear by the said edict, nor indeed have we any information thereof We can therefore only recommend it to you to have a constant and careful eye upon all the proceedings of the said Company's agents, and inform us thereof from time to time, and in particular, what are and may be the effects and consequences of the King's taking into his own hands as before observed the said islands, which seems to us to be the most striking object in the edict

53 Having received information that some of the ships of last season received on board at Madeira and the Canary Islands, large quantities of iron, guns, copper, stores and other contraband goods which had been brought and lodged there for that purpose, in order therefore to detect and put a stop as effectually as we can, to this mode of illicit trade, as well as

all other illicit trade you are to carry into execution the several orders which have from time to time been given on this head and in particular we positively direct and lay it down as an invariable standing order that you take every possible method to discover unlicensed goods and the owners of them and you are carefully to examine the accounts of goods landed from or found in every ship immediately upon her arrival with the manifests in the several packets and whatever shall appear more than are allowed by the said manifests must be seized and sold on the Company's account and you are to transmit a full and true account of all your proceedings herein to us, that we may be satisfied in what manner you have done your duty and that we may take such further measures with the offenders upon their return to England as we shall think fit.

54 Mr Charles Hutchinson Purling whom we have appointed a writer upon the Bengal establishment has our permission to take passage on the *Salisbury* bound first to St. Helena and from thence to China. Upon his arrival at Canton he is at his own expence to take the opportunity of the first good conveyance to make the best of his way to his station in Bengal.

We are,  
Your Loving Friends

Thos Rous / H. Crabb Boulton /  
Cha. Cutts / John Harrison / John  
Manship / Peter Ducane Junr / Fredk.  
Figou / Geo Dudley / Wm. Snell / G  
Rooke / Heny Savage / J Purling /  
Wm Webber / Hen. Hadley / Christo.  
Baron / Charles Chambers / George  
Cuming / Robt. Burrow / W Thornton /  
John Roberts / Richd Smith.

London  
21st November 1764  
[Per *Pacifick*]

# 11

## LETTER DATED 15 FEBRUARY 1765

*Movements of ships—apprehension about Shujaud Daulah and Mir Qasim persisting in their intention to invade Bengal—recommend leniency in the collection of revenues of Burdwan—approve the plan of conducting the business of the Presidency in two distinct departments—irregularities regarding the Winchelsea—pro et for gunpowder manufactured in Bengal*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

I We writ to you by the ship *Tilbury* under date of the 21st of November duplicate and triplicate whereof you will receive by the ships *Greenville* and *Pacifick*

2 The ship *Deptford* after a tedious passage from St Helena and beating several days in and off the Channel was obliged to bear away for Ireland and arrived at Corke the 30th of November, from whence the commander sent us her packets

3 The ship *Tilbury* beforementioned consigned to Madeira, Fort St George and China, the *Dutton* and *Salisbury* for St Helena and China and the *Essex* directly for China sailed on their respective voyages vizt, the *Dutton* from Spithead, on the 15th Decmber and the other three ships the next day from the Downes, and having had the advantage of a settled fair wind, we hope they will have a speedy passage

4 The ships *Ankerwyke* for China, *Albion*, *Royal Captain* and *Horsendon* for Coast and China, and the *Thames* and *Grosvenor* for Bencoolen and China, have also received their dispatches For their times of sailing you are referred to the enclosed lists

5 The ships now under dispatch and by which you will receive this letter, are the *Speke* for Madeira and Coast and Bay, the *Grenville*, *Pacifick* and *Ponsborne* for Coast and Bay

#### *First of shipping*

6 In addition to what we mentioned in our letter to you of the 21st of November last, we are now to inform you that our ship *Royal George* sailed the 18th December for the coast of Angola, where we have ordered our agents to purchase 250 slaves, 100 whereof are to be left at the island St Helena and the remainder 150 are to be carried to the Presidency at Fort Marlbro', when the latter service is performed, the said Presidency are directed to dispatch her to Bombay, where she is to be sold on our account under the usual conditions, that she is never to return to England again, nor be disposed of to any Europeans except the English, taking security of the purchasers for those purposes If the said ship shall happen to be sent to you, the necessary informations concerning her will be transmitted by the Presidency from whence she is sent

7 Agreeable to the intimations in our letter of the 21st November last, we have taken up the ship *Falmouth* to carry 300 recruits to Bengal, and the ship *Hector* to carry the like number to Fort St. George, these ships are engaged in all respects upon the same terms and conditions as the *Fort William*, *Success*, *Lord Anson* and *Prince of Wales* consigned to your Presidency last season, being as follows that the ships are taken up for the run to India only, and when they have delivered all the recruits and consignments belonging to the Company, they are to be disposed of on the owners' account, upon these conditions that they are not to be sold to the French or any other European nation but the English, nor to any of the country powers in the East Indies without the leave of our Governour and Council or agents where they may be disposed of, who are to take security of the purchasers for that purpose But for a more particular information we refer you to the copy of the agreement between the Company and the owners of the *Falmouth* sent by that ship, which you are to take care is punctually complied with,

8. By the said agreement you will observe that two thirds of the freight of the said ship is to be paid here and the remaining third by you For your particular information, we shall also send you a stated account of what we have paid the owners and what they are to receive from you.

9 If either of the said ships should proceed to any other of our Presidencies before they are finally discharged the service, the said copy of the agreement and all other necessary papers and informations are to be forwarded with each of them for the guidance of our said Presidencies.

10 If the situation of affairs should render it necessary we have given leave to the Presidency of Fort St. George to land and detain the troops on board the *Falmouth* and likewise to open our packets for your Presidency and after adjusting and settling all the accounts relative to the ship with the captain to discharge her our service on the conditions beforementioned, unless they shall think it necessary to employ her any longer therein which is left to their discretion.

11 As the several ships consigned to the Coast and Bay with the said ships *Hector* and *Falmouth* are not sufficient to carry out the 1800 recruits intended for the Presidencies of Fort St. George and Fort William we order the *Fox* and *True Briton* two of the Bombay ships to call first at Fort St. George to deliver the officers and recruits which proceed on them as mentioned under the sixth head. And having judged it necessary to send a further number of recruits to the Coast and Bay we have also determined that the *Clive* and *Hardwicke* two other of the Bombay ships shall proceed first to Fort St. George with 260 more officers and recruits which four ships as soon as they have performed that service are to be forwarded immediately to Bombay agreeable to their original destination.

12 We can not comply with your desire that vessels may be sent out of the size of the *Royal George* for bringing home the remains of your investment for we find the expences of such vessels would be far greater than the advantages arising from any services they could render the Company We therefore recommend it as an object very deserving of your attention to get down the whole of the investment so early as to admit of our ships being dispatched in time to get out of the River without danger of losing their passages.

Lre. 18th April  
1 63 Pa. 16

13 You ought not to have paid Captain Skottowes account of disbursements for the *Royal George* but the captain should have been advanced a sum of money on account and the adjustment of those accounts left to us. And you are to observe this as a standing rule for your guidance in all such cases in future

14 Your reasons for destining the *Boscawen* to Madras and China, appear to us very insufficient for as you had justly observed but a short time before you came to that determination she ought to have been the first ship sent home as she was old and had been a long time in India and therefore if it had been necessary to detain a ship another season it should certainly have been the *Ashlurnham* And hereafter it must be a standing rule with you to dispatch the ships in turn according to their times of arrival in India and never deviated from without an absolute necessity

Con. ultation 3rd  
Mar 1 63

Do. 3rd Feby

15 We are sensible of the difficulty of providing returning cargoes for such a number of ships as we have for some time past been under the necessity of sending to India, however, the scheme of forwarding any of them to China without a sufficient stock to purchase a cargo, as was the case of the *Lord Clive*, is, what we can by no means approve of, for you might have been morally certain, the Presidency of Fort Marlborough could not contribute any treasure towards her China cargo. You will therefore strictly observe what we have laid down in our letter of the 21st November last with respect to ships under the description of casual ones, that we may not run the risk of having any ship lay by the walls in China unprovided for

16 You must be careful to inform us in the General Letters of the times of the arrival and sailing of our several Europe ships, as well those bound to or from hence as to or from other ports in India, which you have omitted this season in the instances of the *Lord Clive*, *Deptford*, *Earl of Middlesex*, *Bute* and *Lord Mansfield*

17 In the course of our enquiry into the loss of the *Winchelsea*, there appeared great reason to believe that so essential a measure for the preservation of our shipping as that of an annual survey of your River had been shamefully neglected, and that the pilots are frequently extremely remiss in not ordering their sloops to be ahead of the ships in going up or down the River. As such instances of carelessness are frequently attended with the worst of consequences, we positively insist upon your causing, the most exact and careful surveys of the River to be made, once or oftener every year, agreeable to our orders<sup>1</sup> of the 2nd February 1737/8 and 3rd March 1758 and you are to minute the reports thereof on the face of the Consultations

18 The sending out boys to be trained up to your pilot service, we do not think for many reasons, would answer the purpose, and therefore we do not for the present comply with your request. We  
 Lre 19th Decr 1763 Pa 14 observed in our advices to you last season, that the ships then proceeding with recruits, would give you a good opportunity of supplying that branch of our marine from their mates and other officers, and having this season taken up the *Hector* and *Falmouth* as before mentioned upon the same plan, we also recommend, your engaging some of their officers, for that service, from these resources, we hope, you will have a sufficient assistance for the present at least, or, until we can fall upon some eligible method for supplying you

19 The two schooners ordered to be built at Chittagong, we observe were arrived with you, and likewise two of the four, desired from Bombay  
 Lre 19th Decr 1763 Pa 10 We would have you pursue your intention of building such vessels as may be wanted hereafter, at the former place, if they can be done as well and as cheap as at Bombay, and you are to cause regular surveys of them to be made, and the reports thereof entered on Consultation, specifying their construction, goodness or defects, and the difference in the cost and manner of building from those made at Bombay, but you are under no pretence to establish a marine yard at Chittagong for the Company's account, as our servants there seem to wish, for the expence thereof would certainly be much greater than any advantages we could ever derive

from it and more especially as it can have no works to defend it having in our advices of last season positively forbid any to be made there without our express leave.

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

20 Your indent for naval stores is in general excessively large and several articles therein desired are of a greater size than can be used in the Company's marine service at Bengal particularly anchors and cordage and some of these articles indented for are even larger than what are used on board the freighted ships which is the case especially of the eighteen inch cables. The great amount of the tonnage of this indent has necessarily obliged us to curtail it very considerably but we send as large a supply as the ships can conveniently take in of those articles which are judged to be most wanted. We have sent two top masts and two topsail yards of the same dimensions with those sent last year as you omitted to mention their exact sizes, but we shall not hereafter send either masts yards or any other articles unless you give us their proper descriptions.

21 We are again under the necessity of reminding you to distinguish in your indents in separate columns the amount of each article required for the Company's use and what is for sale, it being absolutely necessary for our guidance in complying therewith.

22 And it is further necessary to direct that you do not upon any account whatsoever dispose of any naval stores unless they can be very well spared, after having reserved sufficient for the demands of our marine and the necessities of our Europe ships.

23 We have complied more fully with your indent for military stores, than we have with the naval indent, and particular regard has been paid to the observations at the foot thereof the only deviation is that the scabbards are sent upon the swords which can not be otherwise as the scabbards would shrink without the blades by the time they reach Bengal. The bayonets being short ground hollow and sharp only at the points are not subject to cut the scabbards as the swords do

24 We have not sent the hats desired for the same reasons as we gave you some time since for discontinuing to send the cloathing for the military

25 Should it be found that plates of copper for battery or brass of a particular thickness have the preference at the sales you must send us a sample of that most esteemed that we may endeavour to get the copper cast agreeable thereto. It is observed in your indent that the plates marked LJI always sold best but on reference to the Warehouse Keeper's letter mentioned in your letter of the 19th December the preference is given to the copper for brass marked with a swan which makes it impossible to determine on this point nor does the account sale afford any information in this respect for the copper for brass which sold at the highest price is only called copper for brass fine and not distinguished by any mark. The account sales is in several other instances very imperfect the marks of several different parcels being omitted. And the import warehouse remains in regard to this article is equally incorrect

for the total quantity of copper in store is sent, without mentioning the particulars of each sort, which is absolutely necessary for us to know, and must be remarked in future

26 You are to cause exact and particular surveys to be made and transmitted to us of all our ordnance mounted and unmounted at your Presidency, describing their number, natures and condition, and you are likewise to inform us what further ones are wanted to render your works properly defensible, describing them also in the same manner

27 Notwithstanding we learn from your advices that Mr Smith has greatly improved the manufacture of gunpowder, yet it appears from a tryal made here, of that received by the *Ashburnham*, by putting  
 Lre 19th Decr      into a machine two drachms of the powder to raise 37½ lb ,  
 1763 Pa 31          this powder at the first tryal lifted only 2/10 of an inch,  
 and at a second tryal 4/10 of an inch, whereas some powder made here being tried with the same quantity, and in like manner, at the first and second tryals raised the weights each time 39/10 inches, and upon examination of the materials, the charcoal was found very bad, and the brimstone and saltpetre not properly refined It is probable this powder might have lost some strength by being so long on board that ship, yet we can not think that would have occasioned so great a difference in force as abovementioned, especially as the materials were found so defective We must therefore again recommend the improvement of this manufacture as a point of great importance to us, hoping you will in time bring it to such perfection as to render it unnecessary, if possible, to send any powder from hence, which besides the room taken up in our ships, exposes them to great danger And as we are informed Mr Walton who now proceeds to you is thoroughly experienced in the manufacture of this article, with his assistance and the abilities which Mr Smith has evinced therein, we hope you will be able to attain so desirable an object In order thereto you are to appoint a committee who are to inspect the gunpowder works every month and report to the Board the quantity made, it's cost, quality and other particulars, which must be entered on Consultation And you are to continue to advise us what further progress and improvements are made and send musters annually for our observation

28 As the extraordinary quantity of provisions sent on the four Bombay ships for the accommodation of the recruits prevents their taking in here all the bales intended for that Presidency, mentioned in our letter of the 21st November, we are under the necessity of sending 450 of these bales in nearly equal proportions on the ships *Albion*, *Royal Captain* and *Horsendon* and 300 more in like manner on the *Grenville*, *Pacifick* and *Ponsborne* making in the whole 750 bales, but as the extraordinary provisions on board the Bombay ships will be expended upon their arrival at Fort St George and there will then be room for the said 750 bales to be transhipped on them, we have given directions to Fort St George to tranship them forthwith in equal proportions, and if it should happen that any of the said bales are brought to your Presidency, you are also to take the first opportunity of forwarding them to Bombay

29 If any of the said bales can be disposed of to advantage at Bengal, you may detain as many of them as you think proper, observing in such case



that you take an exact proportion of each colour in which you are to be guided by the invoice for if only some particulars are taken out, the remaining assortment will be improper for the Bombay market and probably very prejudicial to the sale and thus rule must be observed in future with respect to any bales which may be sent by the way of Bengal for any of our other Presidencies.

30 We are very much surprised to observe so little attention given to our interest in the long detention of the *Nancy* ketch with you for the opium intended for Fort Marlborough as it appears from an  
 Lre. 20th Febr'y  
 1764 Pa. 12. account delivered in to us by Captain Howe that no less than fifty chests of that article were laden on the *Winchelsea* belonging to the freighters and we are also well assured that forty chests more were on board the *Lord Clive* on private account.

31 By not having received any books of invoices since those per *Osterley*, we are at a loss to know what cargoes were on board the *Lord Mansfield*, *Bute* and *Earl of Middlesex* for our account. To prevent such a disappointment in future you are to mention in your letters to us a general account of all consignments to the other Presidencies and send us abstracts of the invoices in the packets.

32. In our letter of the 21st of November you were informed we should send to China about 250 chests of treasure this season but as that trade is of such great importance to the Company we have by exerting our utmost endeavours encreased the quantity to 331 chests notwithstanding this additional supply the whole is still very inadequate to the service you are therefore agreeable to our repeated orders to send to our China Council as large consignments of treasure and goods as you can possibly collect by every good opportunity that offers so long as the season for supplying the present commission of supra cargoes will admit of and after that the succeeding supra cargoes.

### *Thirdly of investments*

33 We now send lists of the investment to be made at your Presidency for the ships proceeding thither this season and to the several observations and directions therein contained you are to give the strictest attention and obedience.

34 In our letter of the 1st April 1760 we represented the loss which the Company sustained by the great quantities of salt and dirt sent from Bengal amongst the saltpetre and strongly recommended it to you to cause the petre to be better refined but we are concerned to find those evils are not yet remedied we now direct that you immediately give this matter a full consideration and take the most eligible methods for removing these complaints. Mr Walton who now proceeds to you being thoroughly versed in the manner of refining this article we would have you send him to the places where that part of our investment is provided to carry your resolutions into execution. and give such advice therein as he may judge necessary in which business you are to give him all proper assistance

35 The method you have fallen upon for providing the Luckipore investment under the direction of our servants at Chittagong, will we hope answer your expectations, and if it can be done there, as well as at the former place, we very much approve of this measure

Lre 19th Decr  
1763 Pa 42

36 As we are prevented from giving our sentiments upon the Barnagore cloth, by the non-arrival of the musters sent by the *Boscawen*, you must send us other musters thereof, lest any accident should have happened to that ship, and likewise samples of any other new cloth for our observation, agreeable to our repeated orders, and this you are to observe as a standing order for the future

*Fourthly concerning the country government, European powers  
and the trade of India*

37 We learn from advices received by the ship *Deptford*, that Shuja Dowlah, the King and Cossim Aly Cawn still appeared to persist in their intentions to invade Bengal and had thrown a bridge over the Ganges to prosecute their march, and though the same advices assure us, you were under no apprehensions of danger from this powerful alliance, yet we can not help being in pain for the event of this important affair

38 The furnishing the country powers with arms is a circumstance of such an interesting nature, that it requires your utmost regard and attention to prevent their falling into hands, who may turn them against us, and which is the more to be dreaded, as the continual military operations at Bengal and on the Coromandel Coast have diffused the European discipline in a very great degree among the natives With respect to such arms as you may be induced to supply the Nabob with in consideration of the alliance between him and the Company, we recommended to you in the strongest terms to take every prudent precaution in your power, that those arms never fall into improper hands, and that no country powers in future be supplied with any arms or military stores whatever without the most absolute necessity

39 In our letters of the 8th February and 1st of June last, we gave you our sentiments and directions very fully in respect to the inland trade of Bengal, we now enforce the same in the strongest manner, and positively insist, that you take no steps whatever towards renewing this trade, without our express leave, for which purpose you must not fail to give us the fullest information upon the subject agreeable to our abovementioned directions

40 The enforcing our said orders is the more indispensably necessary from our observing the complaints of the present Nabob, taken notice of and referred to in your Separate Letter of the 20th February 1764 relating to the many difficulties, hardships and oppressions that he meets with, resulting from the beforementioned unwarrantable and licentious trade, we have such an entire confidence in Lord Clive's great abilities and good intentions, that we make no doubt these great abuses will be particular objects of his care and attention, and that he will be able to carry these our orders effectually into execution

41 The trade of pepper upon the Mallabar Coast being an object of great importance to the Company we much approve of your prohibiting private traders to interfere in our purchases thereof and positively order that you send home any persons who may act contrary thereto

Consulta. 17th  
June 1763

42. We have been so full and explicit in our advices of the two last seasons concerning the measures to be taken with the agents of the French Company in India that we think you can be under no difficulty when they come to resettle in Bengal. As it will be very important for us to have the fullest information of their transactions, either with you the country government concerning their trade or any other matter whatever you must carefully collect and transmit to us all such kinds of intelligence as early as possible.

43 After our repeated instructions and orders, in a succession of our General Letters for maintaining a perfect good understanding and harmony with the Dutch East India Company and our particular orders respecting their free enjoyment of the saltpetre and opium trades,<sup>2</sup> you may guess at our surprise on receiving from the Earl of Sandwich one of His Majesty's principal Secretaries of State on the 20th November last a copy of a memorial presented by Count Welden the Dutch Minister at this Court containing very strong remonstrances and complaints on the part of their high mightnesses in respect to the injustice done their subjects the Dutch East India Company in the articles of saltpetre and opium and particularly charging that they had not been able from the obstructions of our servants, to procure a grain of saltpetre in the year 1763 and but a very small quantity of opium of which last article our servants had made themselves masters of the greatest part. Upon the subject of these complaints, we do require your immediate and explicit answer after a full and deliberate enquiry made by you into the causes that have produced these remonstrances so displeasing to Government and so injurious to our honour and if any of our servants, be they who they may shall be found guilty of this flagrant abuse of their trust and disobedience to our express commands we direct that their proceedings be truly and impartially stated by you to us with every necessary particular and circumstance attending such information and enquiry that we may shew our just resentment against such unwarrantable practices and injurious treatment. At the same time we confirm in the fullest sense and effect our former orders respecting the Dutch enjoying a free trade with ourselves in those articles

44 With respect to the capture of the snow *Susanna Margarita* it appears to us, that the Company can have no concern therein on their own account but are to be considered merely as trustees. You have therefore very properly determined to deposit the money arising from the sale of the prize in your treasury until the affair shall be decided in Europe and you are not to dispose of the same until you receive our further orders

Genl. Ltr 18th  
April 1 63.  
P. 1 & 5

45 Application having been made to us by the several claimants we have ordered the originals and attested copies of such papers relative to the above prize as we have received from your Presidency to be deposited in the High Court of Admiralty and as we are desirous of doing every thing in our power

towards the facilitating of justice in this matter, you are to take care that if any other papers should come to your hands, relating to this transaction, the same be sent to us with the first advices, in order that all parties may receive every proper information for the termination of this affair

46 We must here observe to you that by the copies of Captain Iveson's account current of the prize the net ballance from the sale of the vessel and cargo is current rupees 23,349 97 and by your General Letter of the 18th April 1763 you advise us, that the same sum was deposited accordingly, but on inspecting your treasury accounts for that time, we find only a sum of current rupees 23,256 11 9, received on account of the *Susanna Margarita* prize, by which there seems to have been short paid into your treasury the sum of current rupees 92 13 10, of which you are to take notice

47. This leads us further to observe that by your treasury accounts for July 1763 a sum of current rupees 105 9 6 appears to have been paid Mr Magee for registering sundry papers relative to the *Susanna Margarita* prize, which expence though not included in the account of charges delivered in by Captain Iveson, will we apprehend be disbursed to the Company You are therefore to take care if any other charges should have occurred with respect to this transaction that the same be collected and transmitted to us

*Fifthly of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

48 The immense and increasing charge of your fortifications, is a burthen so sensibly felt by the Company, that we can not avoid earnestly recommending to your serious consideration our former orders for contracting the works, and of course the expence, as far as it can be consistently done The main body of the fort it may be necessary to finish, but no more of the out-works are to be done than are absolutely necessary, and in conducting the whole, you are to have the strictest regard to economy in every instance

49 You must direct a complete plan of the fort and out-works to be drawn out and forwarded to us as soon as possible, in which must be distinguished those parts which are finished, those in hand and those necessary to be done, accompanying the same with proper estimates of the expence, which will be incurred thereby

50 We think it needful to repeat our orders of last season positively forbidding you to make any fortifications at Chittagong without our permission, as we observe by your letter of the 20th of February last, you continued in that intention

51 You did right not to consent to the making a new fort at Dacca, and in ordering the old one to be repaired, as no such works  
 Consn 21 Novr  
 1763 must be set about without our express leave, agreeable to our repeated orders

52 You are to transmit to us as soon as possible, exact plans of all the lands granted to the Company, as well those in the environs of Calcutta as in the provinces of Burdwan, Chittagong, Midnapore or elsewhere, accompanying the same with such remarks and explanations as may be necessary to give us a full and satisfactory information of all our possessions, their value and the importance they are of to the Company

53 It is a great satisfaction to us to hear that during your late troubles, you were able to keep the Burdwan Province free from any material inroads and the more especially as by this means we may reasonably hope that its revenues will not have suffered any diminution.

Lre. 19th Decr  
1763 Pa. 45

54 We observe that the revenues of this province have been stipulated at thirty four lack for the present year as for the former but at the same time you give us your opinion that the lands will not yield the increased rent though by the state of these revenues entered on your Consultations of the 12th March 1764 it appears, that the rents were collected in full. Yet as we find that this was not effected without difficulties and perhaps some degree of rigour we had rather abate of our expectations than subject ourselves to any just imputations of severity for it is our interest as well as inclination to adopt such measures as tend to conciliate the minds of the natives to our Government.

do 46 & 48.  
Lre. 20th Feby  
1764 Pa. 15.

55 As you were fully sensible of the importance of this branch of our revenues we doubt not of your attention thereto, and persuade ourselves that you will settle it on such a footing as shall be most beneficial to the Company without being oppressive either to the farmers or tenants and here we observe your commendations of Mr Johnstone for his great diligence in procuring payment of this part of our revenues which will have due weight with us

56 It is very agreeable to us to hear that the revenues of Midnapore and Chittagong have not only received some increase but that they yield a prospect of being annually improved and that Chittagong in particular is likely to become a valuable settlement and this we trust you had a reasonable assurance of by your sending two additional members to the Council of that place.

Lre 19th. Decr  
1763 Pa. 49 50

57 The method you resolved on last year for collecting the rents of the Calcutta *purgunnahs* having not only given you the advantage of being better acquainted with the nature and extent of the lands but also given an addition to our revenues we the more readily approve of your continuing the collection in the same manner until you have acquired a thorough knowledge of what improvement those lands are capable and consequently how far their rents may be advanced This necessary end once obtained it may be proper for you to reconsider this matter maturely and we doubt not but you will then pursue such a plan as shall be most for the true interest of the Company

Pa. 52

58 You inform us of an increase to our revenues of more than one lack of rupees from the salt pans in the Calcutta lands by the method of taxing the *khallerys* at thirty rupees each so considerable an increase seems sufficiently to justify your having continued the same method for the present year taking it for granted that no grievance or discontent has arisen from this tax.

[Pa.] 11

59 With respect to your making yourselves answerable to the salt merchants for the balances due from the *molungees* or labourers we are not enabled to judge of the expediency of this engagement which has the appearance of being attended with some risk but

Pa. 54

as you have thought it advisable to become sureties to the merchants, in this case, we hope and trust that you had a thorough conviction that the Company would not be subjected to any loss thereby

60 With regard to the state of your mint, though the profits hitherto arising therefrom do not fully answer our expectations, yet the prospect you give of its becoming more beneficial is very agreeable to us When we shall receive a complete state of the mint which you have promised us, we expect to see not only the nett gains by the duties on coinage, but also the amount of the sums coined for private persons in which your mint account current received per *Osterley* is defective

Pa 56

*Sixthly and seventhly of covenant and military servants and accounts*

61 Mr John Barwell whom we advised you in our letter of the 21st November last was appointed a writer for your Presidency, has resigned the said appointment

62 We have therefore appointed Mr John Pearce to be a writer upon your establishment and have given him rank next below Thomas Henchman, one of the writers of this season, and as we are informed, Mr Pearce is now in Bengal, we send covenants in the packet, which must be executed, witnessed, and returned to us by the first ship

63 Mr William Walton whom we mentioned in our letter to you of the 9th May 1764, now proceeds to your Presidency, being assured this gentleman has a compleat knowledge of the method of refining saltpetre and the whole process of manufacturing gunpowder It is our intencion he should be chiefly employed in the regulations of those branches under your direction, and you are to give him all necessary instructions and assistance therein, acquainting us from time to time with his progress Upon his arrival he is to take rank as one of our writers upon your establishment and remain such until the 30th of July 1766 when he will be of age, at which time, he is to commence and be stationed as the youngest factor upon the list However, as we have been induced to give Mr Walton the said rank on account of the assurances we have received of his beforementioned qualifications, if it should appear to you that he has not sufficient judgment in those branches to render us the services we have mentioned, he is then to serve five years as a writer

64 If any of our covenant servants or Mr Wensley the surgeon who came to Bengal with Mr Spencer shall be there when this is received, you are to acquaint them, it is our positive order they return forthwith to their former stations

65 We were acquainted by the President and Council at Fort St George that Mr Edward Middleton one of our writers upon that establishment had resigned our service in order to proceed to and assist his brother of Council at your Presidency in his mercantile concerns, who had given him an invitation for that purpose, as we can not allow our service to be deserted under such pretences, you are immediately to send the said Mr Middleton to England, and his brother must be acquainted, we are very much displeased at his giving encouragement to such a step

66 We have signified to our Presidency at Fort St. George that we

consent to Mr Croke's remaining on that coast, and that they may likewise pay him his annuity

67 Mr Christopher Roffe who we are informed is in Bengal, and Mr William Altham who went thither last year as a free merchant, being appointed factors, upon the Fort Marlborough establishment they are to be acquainted with the said appointment and that we direct them to proceed to their stations on the West Coast forthwith.

68. You were informed in our letter of the 1st June last, that we transmitted to you deeds of covenants to be entered into by yourselves, and all our civil servants, also by all the military officers pursuant to a resolution of the Proprietors of this Company on the 2nd May last, to prevent yours and their receiving any gifts, grants or rewards gratuities allowances, donations, or compensations whatever from any of the country powers, otherwise than under the limitations therein mentioned. We shall expect that the said order of the General Court has been punctually carried into execution and we positively direct that you take care that every new officer civil or military does without fail, upon his admission into the service, execute the said covenants. All our civil and military servants who proceed from hence do upon their respective appointments execute such covenants here.

69 It is always necessary that a civil servant of rank should reside on the Company's behalf at the Durbar agreeable to the treaty with the present Nabob. In this appointment the abilities and qualifications of the person should be chiefly regarded and we suppose you had these in view in the choice of our present Resident, Mr Watts.

70 The method you have taken to excite our junior servants to qualify themselves for the posts of Secretary and Sub-Accountant, by annexing to the due execution thereof for three years a title to the preference of any vacancy of a post of greater trust or advantage meets with our entire approbation and such persons may be likewise assured we shall at all times have a suitable regard to their merits.

71 It is with great pleasure we observe your recommendations of Mr Graham the Secretary and Mr Majendie his assistant for their extraordinary assiduity and the regular manner in which they execute the business of that office and we shall pay due attention to their merits, as well as those of any other of our servants who may distinguish themselves in the like manner.

72. We can not avoid remarking that the allowances you have lately made to the Secretary and his assistants are much larger than the former ones which we thought very handsome and sufficient however being ready upon all occasions to encourage the fidelity and diligence of our servants we shall acquiesce therein if we find the businesses of the two departments are properly conducted and kept up.

73 The plan you have established as a rule of preferment for the encouragement of the surgeons in our service has our approbation for the present but we recommend it to you to see we are put to no more charge on this account than is

19 Decr 1 63  
Pa. 83

Lre. 19th March  
1 64 Pa. 12.

Consulta. 3rd  
Novr 1 63

Lre. 19th Decr  
1 63. Pa. 83 & 84

absolutely necessary, and to take the first opportunity that offers to reduce their number, and you must send us lists of them in the packets every season

74 Being well assured that Mr John Chamier who went out last season as a free merchant for Bengal, has a complete knowledge of the manufacture of raw silk, having been bred up, and many years engaged in the silk trade, we recommend him to be employed in the regulation and improvement of that branch of our investment, after the manner of the late Mr Wilder, and you must transmit us an account of his services herein, that we may make him such an allowance, as he shall appear to deserve

75 And with respect to Mr Joseph Pouchon whom we observe you had employed to increase and improve the raw silk investment, as we are well informed he can render us more service by his judgment in our piece goods, you are to make such use of his abilities in one or both of those branches of our investment as may be most for our interest, giving us the like information with respect to his services

76 In consideration only of your strong recommendation of Mr Cameron for his usefulness to our service, we permit you to continue to employ him therein, so long as it may be found necessary, but it must be an invariable rule with you hereafter, upon no pretence whatever to entertain any person in our service who lays under imputations of misconduct at our other Presidencies

Lre 19th Decr  
1763 Pa 94

77 The friends of Mr Thomas Bagnell, one of our surgeons at Fort Marlborough, having represented that he labours under an indifferent state of health, and desired he may be removed to Bengal, we have acquainted the President and Council there that we consent thereto, and upon his arrival with you, he is to be employed as you shall think proper, whenever a vacancy shall happen

78 As you will be the properest judges of Captain Jennings's pretensions, and how far it may be right to comply therewith, we leave it entirely to you to adjust the same as his services may appear to deserve, and as much to his satisfaction as possible

Lre 20th Feby  
1764 Pa 22

79 We approve your reply to the remonstrance of Captain Fischer, upon your promoting Captain Knox to a majority, as we can not admit of foreigners being advanced above the rank of Captain in our service

Consulta 3rd  
Octr 1763

80 It gives us satisfaction to observe your success in inlisting the men of the regiment, and we approve of your offering them a bounty of ten pounds each for that purpose

Lre 19th Decr  
1763 Pa 87

81 In our letter of the 21st November, we made some general observations on the mutiny which happened in your army, but as this is an occurrence of a most important and interesting nature, we further direct, that you make a particular and circumstantial inquiry into that affair, and transmit us a full and impartial account of the source and causes which gave rise to it, and whether any of the officers, or, who else were to blame therein, or, did not exert their utmost endeavours to stop it's progress, before it came to the dangerous height, to which it arrived

82 The last advices from Fort St George inform us, that Lieutenants John Bridger, George Buck, Arnold Hunterman, Francis Swain Ward and



Robert Phillips, who were with our army before Madura, having taken disgust at the President and Council for promoting some lieutenants of the regiment to captains commissions who had raised fifty men each they left the army and came down to Fort St. George and resigned their commissions. Immediately upon receiving this intelligence we wrote a letter to that Presidency and sent it express to the *Tilbury*, then in the Downs, solely to signify how highly we resented such a mutinous and unsoldierlike conduct and directing those persons to be sent to England by the first conveyance, and likewise any others who might misbehave in the like manner. If any of the said persons shall be in Bengal you are also to send them home whether they may have engaged in the service or not, and if any of our officers should be guilty of such a misconduct at your Presidency they are to be treated in the same manner.

83 In our letter of the 21st of November last we signified our intentions to send out this season eighteen hundred military recruits for our Presidencies of Fort William and Fort St. George, and we then mentioned that the greater part of them would probably be wanted at Bengal but the advices we have since received from Fort St. George being very pressing for a large supply and considering the much greater proportion sent to you last season than to that Presidency we have now determined that of the said eighteen hundred recruits one thousand and twenty be incorporated in our several corps upon the Fort St. George establishment, and the remaining seven hundred and eighty in like manner upon the establishment of Bengal. The said recruits proceed as follows —

#### For Fort St. George

On the four Coast and China ships <i>Tilbury</i> (already sailed), <i>Albion</i> <i>Royal</i> <i>Captain</i> and <i>Horsendon</i>	460
On the <i>Hector</i>	300
On the Bombay ships <i>Fox</i> and <i>True Briton</i> which are to call first at Fort St. George	260
	<hr/> 1020

#### For Bengal

On the four Coast and Bay ships <i>Speke</i> , <i>Greenville</i> <i>Pacifick</i> and <i>Ponsborne</i>	480
On the <i>Falmouth</i>	300
	<hr/> 780

84 In order that the said recruits may be properly taken care of in the voyage and disciplined as well as their situation on board will admit they are to be officered for the voyage only as follows vizt In each of the ships *Speke* *Greenville* *Pacifick* and *Ponsborne* by one captain one lieutenant and one ensign, and in the *Falmouth* one captain two lieutenants and two ensigns.

85 The recruits for Fort St George are officered in the like manner *vizt*, in the *Tilbury*, one captain and one lieutenant, the *Albion*, *Royal Captain* and *Horsendon*, one captain, one lieutenant and one ensign in each ship, in the *Hector*, one captain, two lieutenants and two ensigns, and in the two Bombay ships, two lieutenants and one ensign each

86 The names of the several officers destined for the Presidency of Fort William are as follows —

Captains Scipio Carnac, William Nugent, James Coltee DuCarel, Alexander Hannay and John Stainforth, Lieutenants Thomas Hope, Thomas Dundas, Ralph Harding, William Bullock, Selby Padman and William Powell

Ensigns George Hoggan, John Anthony Vazeille, Francis Field, Swiny Toone Savage Barrell and Thomas Preston

87 For the ships on which the said officers proceed, you are referred to the several lists in the packets

88 We shall also send for your information, the names of the officers for Fort St George, in separate lists

89 The beforementioned recruits for your Presidency are not to be formed into any new companies, but are to be incorporated in the corps, which form your present establishment, and with respect to the officers, they are to succeed to such vacancies as shall happen after their arrival in the rank and order they are named above, and until such vacancies happen, they are to receive pay agreeable to their respective ranks, and be employed in such manner as you shall think fit

90 We have given the like orders, both with respect to the officers and recruits destined for Fort St George

91 Altho' by our beforementioned arrangements, the greater part of the recruits and officers are destined for Fort St George, yet as the situation of the Company's affairs in Bengal may require a fuller assistance, we have in such case directed the Presidency of Fort St George, to forward as many of them as they can possibly spare accordingly, but as they are in all events to belong to the said establishment, they are to be deemed and taken as detachments from that Presidency

92 On the other hand if they should be under a real necessity of detaining any of the officers and recruits designed for Bengal, they have our leave to do so, for so long as they may be wanted, under the like regulation of deeming them detachments from your Presidency

93 In general the affairs of our several Presidencies are to be looked upon as they really are, a common concern, they are accordingly mutually and as effectually as possible, to assist one another, whenever the exigency of affairs requires it, and thus we lay down as an invariable rule for the observance of every Presidency<sup>3</sup>

94 Upon further considering the great importance of sending as effectual a supply of military recruits to our Presidencies of Fort St George and Bengal as we can possibly find conveyances for, and the pressing instances of both Presidencies on this head, we have determined that the ships *Clive* and *Hardwicke*, two other of the Bombay ships, shall proceed first to Fort St George

with two hundred and sixty recruits over and above the beforementioned eighteen hundred which will be officered in like manner as those in the other two Bombay ships.

95 One circumstance which has been the occasion of greatly increasing the military expences of your Presidency has been the employing a great many officers more than were wanted for the number of men they were to command since we have settled the military establishment the number of officers is thereby adjusted and must not on any account be dispensed with or exceeded, being fully satisfied it is sufficient for the service and to answer every good purpose this is not meant however to vacate any of the commissions already issued but that in future you will grant no other commissions than your establishment requires.

96 We have appointed Mr Ezekiel Mackelwaite to be a lieutenant fireworker in our artillery at Bengal, and as he has been in the service of His Majesty's train and is well instructed in all the engineering branch we recommend him to be employed as one of our engineers at your Presidency

97 The plan you have adopted for conducting the business of your Presidency in two distinct departments<sup>4</sup> both under the management of the President and Council, appears to us a very proper and necessary regulation and we expect you will take particular care that the books of each department are kept in such forwardness, that we may receive them by every ship, brought up as near to the time of her dispatch as possible.

98 It is with real concern we still find ourselves disappointed of receiving the General Books of your Presidency to the latest period instead of which you give us to understand that you would forward (per *Boscawen*) only one set ending April 1760 which set unfortunately has not yet reached us. We have so repeatedly animadverted on your failure in so material a point that it is unnecessary for us to say more on the subject but as you tell us the remaining sets of books are in great forwardness, we hope to receive them compleat by the ships of next season.

99 We must here also observe that you speak only of the General Books of your Presidency without taking any notice of those of your subordinates though these books may not be thought so immediately necessary as the books of your Presidency yet you cannot but be sensible that your General Books themselves must be insufficient to answer our inquiries without the subordinate books that form so great a part of your transactions

100 It is unnecessary to mention to you that it is our standing order that the General Books of all subordinates should be sent us as well as those of our Presidencies this order was duly attended to till the capture of Calcutta, since which it seems to have been totally neglected. We are indeed apprized that many interruptions and difficulties arising from the troubles of the country may have retarded the regular course of business at your out settlements yet when these troubles shall have subsided we trust that you will turn your thoughts also to the giving us a series of the subordinate books and that our servants on your establishment will exert themselves to bring

the several books in their proper order that they may be duly transmitted to us

101 As the receiving your Commissaries books and Military Paymaster's books is of essential consequence, that we may not remain in uncertainty in a point of such importance as your military expences, we cannot but repeat our former orders that you by no means neglect to send them in their due course

102 The *purgunnah* accounts that we have hitherto received are imperfect both with respect to time and method, consisting chiefly of monthly accounts (and those not in regular succession), without any general abstract, as these must necessarily have been reduced in a set of books, we apprehend you can be under no difficulty in sending us copies of them

103 We have received per *Osterley* the account of expences of French prisoners at your Presidency to November 1763, and a duplicate per *Pigot* continued to February 1764, and have only to remark, that it does not appear you have inserted therein, the charges of French prisoners in the Deccan expedition, we are at a loss for the reason of such omission, as this charge is inserted in a former account dated 31st January 1762 received per *Warren*

104 The copies of the accounts kept by the commissioners of restitution are come to hand, but we are sorry to observe, that they are so far from answering all our inquiries on the subject, that it is hardly possible for us to draw from them any clear state of the transaction. The claims delivered in appear to be very inaccurate (not to mention that there are many duplicates in the same book), some have no names of the claimants annexed to them, other claims are blended together, and several sums appear to have been allowed to persons whose names cannot be discovered as having delivered in any estimates of losses, the established claims have indeed references to the accounts delivered in by the sufferers, but these last not being entered in numerical order, it cannot without difficulty be seen what claims were really made, and what particular sum was allowed on each respective claim

105 By your accounts it appears, that upwards of sixty eight thousand current rupees have been paid to the European sufferers more than the amount of their established claims, as set forth in the books received per *Royal George* and *Earl of Ashburnham*, so that upon the whole, it is still necessary for you to send us such a digested state of this transaction as may remove every before-mentioned difficulty

106 We sent you last year copies of the bill filed against the Company, in the Court of Chancery, by the claimants on the Restitution Fund, that you might be enabled to judge what was requisite for our further information in this affair, and we refer you to our instructions on the subject in our General Letter, from which we make no doubt, but you will be very sensible that the materials hitherto sent us, are absolutely insufficient for forming a statement with such precision and exactness as are indispensably necessary in matters subjected to litigation, therefore if you should not already have forwarded to us such a full and exact account as the nature of the case requires, you will not fail to do it by the first opportunity

107. And as the article of commission charged in the restitution account is a point of the greatest importance in our inquiries and hitherto stands

without any explanation we cannot avoid repeating our former directions that you particularly acquaint us what is meant by *reserved commission*, to whom such commission is due, upon what consideration and what is the amount thereof.

108 We cannot avoid taking notice of an error that occurs in your General Books ending April 1759 wherein you have debited *Hughley Captors*<sup>a</sup> for current rupees 29308-8-6 instead of *Account Deposits* which account has credit for that sum in your preceding books though this erroneous transposition does not actually affect your general ballance, yet it must necessarily occasion confusion as each of those accounts has a wrong ballance outstanding in case therefore such error has not already been discovered you will take care to rectify the same.

#### *Eighthly concerning the charter*

109 The papers concerning the cause of Mary de Lons are before the King in Council whose decree therein shall be advised to you

110 Agreeable to our promise last season we now send you by the ship *Grenville Histoire des Traités de Paix et Autres Negotiations* in 18 Vols. folio which being a scarce work are to be carefully preserved amongst your records.

#### *Supplement*

111 There being a great demand for raw silk for home consumption and we being willing to contribute as far as lays in our power to encourage so useful and national a manufacture we would have you if the situation of your finances will possibly admit of it comply with the orders in the list of investment as nearly as you can, taking care to lade the same in equal proportions in the several ships.

112 The friends of Mr Benjamin Randall whom we permitted to continue in India as a free merchant and sent indentures accordingly for him in 1762 in the *Tilbury* s packet to your Presidency have represented that he has not been admitted to the execution of those indentures We are desirous of knowing the reason of that omission and direct that you call upon him to enter into his covenants if no just cause shall appear to the contrary and that the same be thereupon returned to us by the first ship for Europe.

113 When directions were given to our several Presidencies for employing the *Winchelsea* it was expressly recommended that the said ship's voyages during her detention in India should be so planned as to be consistent with the Company's interest and consequently that her earnings should defray the demorage at least how our said directions and recommendations have been disregarded even supposing the *Winchelsea* was to be put on a footing with the *Godolphin* and the several irregularities which have occurred in the course of the proceedings with respect to the said ship will appear from the following deduction of facts and the observations naturally resulting therefrom.

114 If Captain Howe could not have performed the double voyage from Bombay to Bengal and back again also have been employed on a freight

voyage according to the Court's first directions, contained in their letter of the 23rd December 1761, so as to be dispatched home by the 11th of February 1764, the ship ought not to have been detained for a freight voyage, but in all events should have been sent to England by the said time, as the charterparty with the owners then expired

115 Instead whereof, upon the *Winchelsea's* arrival at Bengal from Bombay, which was on the 7th March 1763, the President and Council let her out to freight for twenty months from the 1st of April following, that is to say, from that time to the 1st December 1764, but not to exceed the 30th January 1765 This was carrying her detention a year beyond the expiration of the charterparty as beforementioned

116 Upon the *Winchelsea's* arrival at Bombay in the said freight voyage on the 18th October 1763, the President and Council there agreed with Captain Howe to prolong the freighter's term from the said 30th January 1765 to the 30th April following

117 Upon her return to Bengal again which was on the 20th February 1764, on which day the President and Council received the Court's letter under date of the 13th May 1763, recommending it to them to let Capt Howe have the preference of being employed another season, provided it coincided with the Company's interest, upon this recommendation they took upon them to agree with Captain Howe to prolong the freighter's time to the 11th of February 1766, she was accordingly dispatched from Bengal on the freighter's account about the 17th March 1764 for Bombay and Surat, but was unfortunately lost in Bengal River the 20th of the same month

118 By the contracts between the Governor and Council and the freighters, it was agreed that the latter should allow the Company after the rate of five hundred pounds a month during her detention, to be paid when and where the ship should be discharged, reckoning thirty days to the month, the said allowance is sixteen pounds thirteen shillings and four pence a day, whereas the demorage the Company was by charterparty to allow the owners, was twenty pounds three shillings and four pence a day

119 Upon the *Winchelsea's* voyage from Bengal to Bombay, it appears she called at Fort St George where one thousand bales of the Company's woollen goods were laden, for which the President and Council of Bombay paid to Captain Howe for freight, the sum of eight thousand three hundred and sixteen rupees, they also advanced him on account of his owners the sum of five thousand rupees

120 And considerable sums of money must have been paid according to the custom of India, to the freighters of the *Winchelsea*, or to Captain Howe on their account, by several persons who freighted goods on the said ship under them

121 The observations which naturally occur to us, from the foregoing statement, are

122 That the *Winchelsea's* detention beyond the 11th February 1764, was not warranted by our first orders, and the second orders to take them in the most extensive sense, could admit of her detention no longer at the utmost than to the 11th February 1765 though the President and Council at Fort William took upon them, as before observed, to prolong the freighters'

term to the 11th February 1766 this we look upon as a wilful misconstruction of our orders.

123 The step the Governour and Council of Bombay took to prolong the freighters time from 30th January 1765 to 30th April following was highly imprudent and injurious as they could not but well know if the ship was at that time to be delivered up she must have lain a long time upon demorage at the Company's expence before she could have been dispatched for Europe.

124 If it had not been for the unfortunate loss of the *Winchelsea* she would have continued in the hands of the freighters from the 1st of April 1763 to the 11th February 1766 that is to say about thirty four months, which at five hundred pounds a month amounts to seventeen thousand pounds, whereas the Company must have paid the owners for that period twenty thousand five hundred and seventy pounds the difference being three thousand five hundred and seventy pounds, would have been an apparent loss to the Company And as the President and Council well knew the said five hundred pounds a month was inadequate to the demorage it is very surprizing they could so readily admit of the absurd reasons urged in the freighters proposals entered on Consultation 23rd March 1763 to induce them to come into such a disadvantageous agreement with respect to the Company

125. Notwithstanding the Company was not to receive any part of the freight until the ship was discharged by the freighters Captain Howe received on their account even of the Company for freight of bales carried from Fort St. George to Bombay as before observed rupees 8316 and he also was paid by the President and Council at the last named place five thousand rupees for the use of his ship these two sums are now a dead loss to the Company whereas the first sum in particular instead of being paid to the freighters ought in all reason to have been carried to account only and here we must observe that according to the general custom of India the freighters ought to have paid the Company freights before the ship proceeded on her respective voyage but which was totally disregarded in making the contract

126. The freighters and Captain Howe have had the advantage of the voyage from Bengal to Bombay and back and been paid considerable sums by the black merchants and others before the ships departure from Bengal on the voyage she was unfortunately lost in for goods freighted by them for Surat upon the whole it is apparent the Captain and freighters have been greatly benefited though the Company have actually been sufferers and would have been still more so if the ship had continued in the freighters hands to the expiration of the contract.

127 To what we have said must be added that the detention of the *Winchelsea* beyond her charterparty time will probably be productive of many litigations at law in which the Company may be involved in many difficulties if not be great sufferers not to mention the losses of the owners in urers and all other persons who had any connections with this ship

128 That the intended long detention of the *Winchelsea* would have rendered her very unfit and in too dangerous a condition to be trusted with a valuable cargo on our account for Europe but this was not at all attended

to by our President and Council, tho' so material a circumstance, and well deserving their consideration

129 It appears upon our examination of Captain Howe, that upon the loss of his ship, he forthwith proceeded for and got to Calcutta with the pilot the 25th March and acquainted the Governour and Council in writing with the misfortune, and had their orders to take his passage on the *Pigot* for England, notwithstanding he continued there two days, the President and Council did not send any information whatever to us on this occasion, nor did President Vansittart, though his letter to the Court was dated the said 25th March, this was a great omission, and considering the importance of the subject, highly culpable, and we are further to add, that the suffering Capt Howe and his chief and third mates to leave Calcutta before a thorough examination was made into the loss of the ship, was extremely irregular

130 Whenever any Europe ships are let to freight in India, you must cause a copy of the agreement with the freighters to be entered upon Consultation, which you have omitted in the instances of the *Godolphin* and *Winchelsea*

131 We have been thus particular upon the several transactions with respect to the *Winchelsea*, not only to point out the irregularities and inattentions to the Company's interest in the course thereof, but with a view to lay them open for the particular information of all future Presidents and Councils, that they may in all instances of employing our ships in India pursue such measures as shall be conducive to the real interest of the Company

132 Since writing the former part of this letter the ship *Albion* has been unfortunately lost in her way to the Downes, nothing of consequence could be saved except forty six of the forty seven chests of the Company's treasure on board and several parcels of silver belonging to private persons

133 Of the said forty six chests of treasure, twenty chests were put on board the *Ankerwyke* and thirteen on each of the ships *Thames* and *Grosvenor*, which were, as before, consigned to China

134 We have ordered these ships the *Speke*, *Grenville*, *Pacifick* and *Ponsborne* to call first at Fort St George principally with a view of giving that Presidency an opportunity of landing such of the recruits as their exigencies may require, but whether they do so or not, the ships are ordered to be forwarded to you with all possible dispatch

135 We send only about a tenth part of the tent cloth you have indented for, this is the first time you have desired it, and we can not suppose but country cloth may be made to answer the same purposes

136 Thirty barrels of gunpowder bought of a new merchant is sent on the ship [ ], you are therefore to give us an account of the quality, and whether it proves as good as that we have hitherto sent

137 The friends of Captain Thomas Fenwicke having applied to us for leave for his coming to England to see his family, and afterwards to return to Bengal again, we have consented thereto, and you are to permit him to come to England accordingly upon furlow

138 The friends of the late Mr Gideon Ferrand, a writer on your establishment having represented to us, that upon his death in October 1761,



Mr Joseph Pouchon administered to his estate, but has not to this time accounted for the produce thereof to the legal representative here it is therefore recommended to you to call upon him for and acquaint us with the reasons for such his delay

139 You were informed in our letter of the 23rd December 1761 that the gunpowder barrels would in future be hooped with copper and that the hoops were to be sold as merchandize this measure is still continued you must therefore direct the copper hoops on the powder barrels to be a separate head in the Storekeeper's books, and whenever any Europe gunpowder is sold the hoops to be charged in an additional article, according to the price of copper but at the same time we hope you will not be under the necessity of disposing of any of the Europe powder to any one whatever as it is very inconvenient to us to send it abroad in such large quantities as our several settlements require.

140 As we find your indents very incorrect in several instances we direct that in future when the indents are drawn out, you do observe to have the account of remains laid before you from whence you will be enabled to judge what quantity of each article, you may have occasion for and the several articles must stand in the indents in the very same order they do in the account of remains.

141 A provet is sent for proving the powder made at your Presidency the quantity of powder to be proved therein at one time is two drachms avoirdupoise, which must be weighed with great exactness and for this purpose a small pair of scales with weights are sent. Two bottles of proved gunpowder are likewise sent in order to determine the standard of the powder made with you and if this last raises the provet to the same height as the samples of powder beforementioned it may then be pronounced to be of sufficient strength.

142 To what we have mentioned in the 17th paragraph relating to the loss of the *Winchelsea* and the neglect of having annual surveys of the River made we add that the utmost attention be paid to the orders and regulations laid down in our General Letters of the 2nd February 1737/8 and the 3rd March 1758 for the conduct and management in marine affairs and as we observe it is mentioned in your minutes of Consultations that the book of standing orders lays always before you frequent recourse must be had thereto especially with respect to the safety of the navigation in your River on which the Company's interest as also that of the individuals so much depends.

143 Since the peace the slaving trade to the coast of Africa having greatly increased in course the demand for goods proper for that market is very large and as we are desirous of contributing as far as lays in our power to the encouragement of a trade on which the well being of the British plantations in the West Indies so much depends and considering the same therefore in a national view we have made some additions and amendments to the list of goods to be provided at your Presidency in assistance to the said trade all which are comprised in the orders for the investment now sent you and we expect and positively direct that you conform as nearly as you possibly can to the whole list but particularly with respect to the articles for the African trade

144 Although we have given repeated orders for your sending accounts of the increase or decrease of the several articles ordered in our lists of investments and the reasons for the same, we have only received by the ship *Pigot* such accounts for the Calcutta and Dacca goods which indeed are drawn out in a manner agreeable to our orders, we therefore positively direct that the investments made not only at the Presidency but at every subordinate settlement be drawn out upon the same plan and transmitted to us annually in duplicate at least, and we further direct that the said accounts be carefully inspected and examined into, by and at your Board and then signed by the President and all the members present

145 The animadversions made in the course of this letter upon the several transactions at your settlement are addressed as usual to the President and Council, however they are not to be understood to affect any persons who were not members at the time of such transactions, any otherwise than as cautions and directions for their conducting the Company's affairs in future

We are,

Your Loving Friends,

Thos Rous / Hy Crabb Boulton / Cha  
Cutts / Geo Dudley / Hen Hadley /  
Fredk Pigou / Christr Baron / J Pur-  
ling / G Rooke / Robt Burrow / Peter  
DuCane Junr / Charles Chambers /  
William Snell / Wm Webber / John  
Roberts / George Cuming / John  
Harrison

London,  
15th February 1765  
[Per *Speke*]

12

## LETTER DATED 26 APRIL 1765

*Apprehend progress by Indians in the art of war—condemn conduct of Company's servants in Bengal—clarify the position regarding inland trade in salt, betel-nut and tobacco—criticise reported agreement with Mir Jafar regarding donation money without their consent and order rendering of full accounts*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 Our last letter to you bearing date the 15th February last, was sent by the ships, *Speke*, *Grenville*, *Pacifick* and *Ponsborne*, for the times of those ships' departure, as well as of the ships *Royal Charlotte*, *Chve*, *True Briton*, *Fox* and *Hardwicke* since dispatched, you are referred to the list enclosed in this packet

2 You will receive this by the *Falmouth*, Captain George Hepburn, taken up for the purpose of carrying three hundred recruits to your Presidency, as we have particularly noticed in our abovementioned letter How far we may

be able to compleat that number will appear by the list enclosed herewith as will the officers who proceed with them.

3 Our main design in employing the *Falmouth* being to convey the said recruits to your Presidency there are but few consignments in her for the Company's account for the particulars whereof you are referred to the invoice and bill of lading

4 Having in our said letter of the 15th February last given you very particular directions with respect to this ship we have nothing further to add thereto than that you will receive in the packet her charterparty copy of Captain Hepburn's instructions, copy of the amount of freight and demorage together with all other necessary articles and papers.

5. The gentlemen appointed to be the Secret Committee during the present direction are Henry Crabb Boulton Esquire, Chairman of the Court George Dudley Esquire, Deputy together with Charles Cutts Robert Jones Thomas Rous and Henry Savage Esquires. The power of this Committee is to take such precautions as they shall judge necessary for the safety of the Company's outward and homeward bound shipping. The orders therefore, that they or any three of them shall give for this purpose, are to be obeyed by the President and any other person or persons to whom they are directed.

6. A brass three pounder field piece with a carriage of a new construction is now sent you by way of trial. You are to report to us whether it proves of superior utility to those you have now in use of the same nature and if these last can be mounted on such new invented carriages. It is to be observed that the said new three pounder gun is lighter than usual and therefore twelve ounces of powder is the charge for service. You must also inform us if you think it will answer to mount six and twelve pounder field pieces on the same sort of carriages.

7 As the prover for proving gunpowder mentioned in our letter of the 15th February last could not be sent by the *Ponsborne* as was intended it is now forwarded to you on the *Falmouth*

8 If the supra cargoes of the *Royal Charlotte* shall be under the necessity of taking up money at Mocha on our account to assist them in purchasing the coffee cargo for that ship and shall draw bills upon you for that purpose you are duly to honour them

9 It is reported that the French Company have been fitting out at port L'Orient seven ships for the East Indies and China and likewise a frigate of war some of which are said to be already sailed. You must therefore in addition to the intelligence directed to be sent in our letter of the 15th February last transmit us an exact account of the number of French ships their force and cargoes, which shall arrive at and depart from every port in India that may come within your knowledge

10 On the 23rd March the *Duke of Albany* arrived in the Downs from the Presidency of Fort St George. By her we received your General Letter of the 27th September 1764 upon the contents whereof we have only time to make some general observations by this conveyance

11 We cannot avoid remarking that in the destination of our shipping you seem to have overrated the number to be sent home from the Bombay

side, and at the same time, it is matter of concern to see only three ships were intended to be laden home from your Presidency, where we think one or two more might have been provided with cargoes, especially when so large an investment of saltpetre was expected

12 With particular satisfaction we see so proper an attention was paid to that important branch of our affairs the China trade, by setting apart ten lacks of rupees out of our revenues to be sent thither, on a ship or ships to proceed by the Pitt's Passage, which you judged might reach Canton in February, and although this supply might not arrive there in time to be of any service that season, yet your sending the *Plassey* schooner to give early advice thereof, was a well judged measure for the support of the Company's credit

13 As we must expect our several Presidencies will annually give their utmost assistance to the China trade, we shall accordingly depend upon a continuance of your care and attention to this great object

14 Your saltpetre investment we observe with pleasure was likely to turn out very well, and that you had therefore determined to supply Fort St George with ten thousand and Bombay with thirty thousand maunds. These large supplies we hope will have considerably promoted the dispatch of the ships intended to be laden home from those Presidencies

15 In your narrative of the operations of the campaign, we observe our army under Major Carnac was in a very critical situation when it was attacked by Shujah Dowla's numerous forces, and with singular pleasure we learn that our troops gave the enemy so brave a repulse, that they soon after retreated into the Budgapore country. Although you apprehend the motive of Shuja Dowla's retreat thither was to secure a communication with his own dominions during the rains, after which you expected his return, yet we hope the great preparations you were making to oppose him, will have made him change such an intention. Major Munro<sup>1</sup> upon coming to Bengal, we observe, took the command of the army and was preparing to take the field as soon as the season would permit, intending if no treaty was concluded with Shujah Dowlah, to act offensively and bring him to an action as soon as possible. From the short accounts we have of those operations, we incline to approve Major Carnac's conduct in acting on the defensive, the small number of European troops, the mutinous disposition of the seapoys, and the little reliance to be had on them or the Nabob's horse, were circumstances of so alarming a nature, that we do not wonder the Major should have declined putting the whole on the issue of a battle against an enemy, that appears far more formidable than any country power we have ever been engaged against, and indeed we think the fate of the provinces should never be exposed to the issue of a battle without the most absolute necessity. We hope therefore that the plan adopted by Major Monro will have been pursued with the utmost precaution and attention to all circumstances, and as we place the greatest confidence in Lord Clive's abilities and zeal for the Company's service, we hope that long before this he has put a happy conclusion to these troubles

16 With great concern we learn that your seapoys sensible of their own strength and numbers, had mutinied several times, and proceeded to very extraordinary lengths but we hope the spirit exerted by Major Monro in the

last instance and his making proper examples of the ring leaders will have effectually put a stop to such disorders.

17 And it is with equal concern we observe you had resolved to raise two thousand country horse at Patna in order to prevent such distresses as our army had lately experienced from being exposed to the numerous cavalry of the enemy. As you represent this measure was absolutely necessary we hope it will have answered your intentions especially as this corps was to be under the conduct of European officers. The progress that the natives make in the knowledge of the art of war both in Bengal and on the Coast of Choromandel is become a very alarming circumstance and we are not without our apprehensions of the consequences of your teaching them our cavalry exercise. We hope therefore you will have only made it a temporary expedient and either disband these troops, or (if they are to remain in the Nabob's service) recall the officers from the command as soon as the war with Shujah Dowla is at an end or use such precautions as may best prevent the dangers we think likely to result from such an innovation, and we here think it proper to caution you against letting any European officers or soldiers enter into the service of the country government, and that you discourage as far as in your power all military improvements among them.

18 This additional charge being chiefly occasioned by the uselessness of the Nabob's horse and as you hereby took the entire defence of the provinces upon the Company and relieved him from the greatest part of his military expence you did very right in procuring assignments from him to support this increase of expence.

19 As the province of Bahar is the frontier from which you are most exposed to invasions we would recommend it to your mature consideration whether it would not be a right measure to propose to the Nabob to erect a fortification to the northwest of Patna in such a situation as to check the Boujepore rajahs and large enough to admit a garrison capable of repelling any sudden invasion until the army could march to their support. It appears to us as far as we can judge from the accounts that we have received from you of your military operations, that such a measure would contribute greatly to the preservation of the provinces. If you should think it prudent to make such a proposition to the Nabob and he approves thereof it must be upon no other terms than to be erected at his charge, and garrisoned by our troops only which would further answer the end of securing his dependency and would also be a means of preserving our Europeans by having a considerable number of them quartered in a climate so far superior to that of Calcutta in the healthfulness of its situation.

20 We are extremely anxious for the arrival of Lord Clive and the gentlemen who accompanied him as they have been so lately in England they are the best judges of the opinion the Company and the nation entertain of the conduct of the English in Bengal for these last four years which we are sorry to say is in general that they have been guilty of violating treaties of great oppression and a combination to enrich themselves.

21 We do not here mean to enter into a discussion respecting the political conduct of our late Governour and Council but must say that an unbounded thirst after riches seems to have possessed the whole body of our servants to

that degree that they have lost all sight of justice to the country government, and of their duty to the Company

22 In reading the opinions of the several members of the late Council respecting this illegal trade, by which we mean the articles of salt, beetle nut, and tobacco, we are astonished to find those among them who pretended to found their right on the *phirmaunds* <sup>2</sup>

23 Treaties of commerce are understood to be for the mutual benefit of the contracting parties, is it then possible to suppose that the Court of Delhi, by conferring the privilege of trading free of customs, could mean an inland trade in the commodities of their own country, at that period unpractised and unthought of by the English, to the detriment of their revenues, and the ruin of their own merchants? We do not find such a construction was ever heard of until our own servants first invented it, and afterwards supported it by violence, neither could it be claimed by the subsequent treaties with Meer Jaffier, or Cossim Ally which were never understood to give one additional privilege of trade beyond what the *phirmaunds* expressed. In short, the specious arguments used by those who pretended to set up a right to it, convince us that they did not want judgment by virtue to withstand the temptation of suddenly amassing a great fortune, although acquired by means incompatible with the peace of the country, and their duty to the Company

24 Equally blameable were they, who acknowledging they had no right to it, and sensible of the ill consequences resulting from assuming it, have nevertheless carried on this trade and used the authority of the Company to obtain by a treaty exacted by violence, a sanction for a trade to enrich themselves without the least regard or advantage to the Company whose forces they employed to protect them in it

25 Had this short question been put, which their duty ought first to have suggested, is it for the interest of our employers?, they would not have hesitated one moment about it, but this criterion seems never once to have occurred

26 All barriers being thus broken down between the English and the country government, and everything out of its proper channel, we are at a loss how to prescribe means to restore order from this confusion, and being deprived of that confidence which we hoped we might have placed in those servants who appear to have been the actors in those strange scenes, we can only say, that we rely on the zeal and abilities of Lord Clive and the gentlemen of the Select Committee to remedy these evils. We hope they will restore our reputation among the country powers and convince them of our abhorrence of oppression and rapaciousness

27 It is currently reported here that letters are received by the *Duke of Albany* which make mention of an agreement between the Nabob Meer Jaffier and our late Governour and Council since the treaty<sup>3</sup> concluded with him on the 10th July 1763, by which it is stipulated that the present Nabob shall pay over and above the thirty lacks for the Company mentioned in that treaty, forty lacks by way of restitution to make good the losses of private persons, besides twenty five lacks to the army, and twelve lacks to the navy, not named in that treaty, making together the enormous sum of one hundred and seven

lacks of rupees which is above one million three hundred thousand pounds sterling

28. It is a very extraordinary circumstance that there is no mention made in any of the letters from our late Governour and Council of what sum was to be given by the Nabob to make good the private losses, although in their letter of the 27th of September 1764 they say they have regulated the payment of the restitution to the merchants, which implies the being in possession of a fund for that purpose but we must suppose if the reports as to the sums stipulated to be given for this use, and also by way of donation to the army and navy are true that they purposely omitted to acquaint us of the particular amount from an apprehension that we could never approve of an agreement with the Nabob of this consequence, and for such excessive large sums of money without advising us thereof and giving us very good reasons for a proceeding which so nearly affects the honour and interest of the Company. Indeed when we consider the present state of the country involved for years past in continual wars and drained of its riches and the blood of its inhabitants it is impossible for us to suppose our own servants capable of adding so greatly to its miseries, by compelling or even persuading the Nabob to pay such exorbitant sums of money and at a time when by all accounts he is himself in the greatest distress. Be this as it may we do expect and require from you a particular account of every sum received from the Nabob by way of donation or under any other denomination by any and each of our servants, civil and military whether by agreement in writing or otherwise in what manner it was obtained and for what services and that you immediately transmit to us copies of all such agreements and the particular account of losses given in by each individual together with what proportion has been already paid and we positively forbid any further payment till you receive our further orders.

29 We do require from you and we have a right so to do a just and precise account of this whole extraordinary transaction the honour and reputation of the Company and even of the nation are at stake and when these particulars if true come to be known they require the fullest and most explicit explanation and justification we who are at present totally uninformed from any authentic accounts can only express our astonishment to hear that such things have been as we cannot suggest to ourselves upon what principles the present Nabob could be expected persuaded or required to make good the losses sustained by individuals in carrying on to their great imputation and the prejudice of the Company they served a most illicit and unwarrantable although to them a most lucrative trade in the articles of salt beetle nut and tobacco and we are as much at a loss to comprehend how the services rendered to the new Nabob could deserve so exorbitant a consideration to be given to those who were only doing their duty in the service of their King and country and of this Company

30 We have heard such instances of the want of subordination among our servants that we shall never think you are seriously inclined to introduce good order among them until you have made some examples of the most violent and refractory of them by dismissing them our service upon just complaints and sending them to Europe and we also direct that as soon as accommodations can be provided for the junior servants in the New Fort that you do no longer make them an allowance of house rent and we further

direct that it be a standing order and strictly adhered to, that no writer on the establishment of Fort William be permitted to reside out of the Fort without the express licence of the Governour and Council

31 We have paid all possible attention to your pressing requests for recruits for the military, by sending as many as could be conveyed on the ships bound to your Presidency and taking up this ship the *Falmouth* solely for that purpose And you may depend that we shall continue to exert our utmost endeavours to supply you in future, it being our firm intention to keep up your establishment as settled in our letters of the 30th of December 1763 and 1st of June 1764 But as we may be disappointed through the want of room in our shipping, and we send this season very large supplies to Fort St George, you must therefore upon any emergency apply for assistance to that Presidency and Bombay, whom we have repeatedly directed to give you the utmost aid upon such occasions

32 And as we find it necessary to send out proper officers to discipline the recruits in the voyage, and have and shall continue to send such young gentlemen as may offer to serve as cadets, we think you will not be at a loss for officers to complete the several battalions upon your establishment

33 By the ships of this season we have and shall send you as great a number of small arms as we could get made, and we shall pay a due regard to your representations upon this point in future

34 As during the course of the late war we apprehend that expences may have been incurred in your hospitals by His Majesty's troops, we are at a loss for the reason of our not having received any account thereof By this means when we should state a full and complete account of all such expences at our several Presidencies with such authentications as might entitle us to a reimbursement for the same, we cannot even form a judgment whether we have any claim for expences in your hospitals Therefore (if such should have been incurred), you must not fail to transmit us by the first conveyance a distinct and regular account thereof, distinguishing each respective regiment, and expressing what sums may have been received from the Paymaster of the regiments out of the men's pay

35 At the same time you must furnish us with accounts of all stores that have been supplied His Majesty's troops and squadrons and if it should now be too late for you to get these several expences or supplies of stores properly certified, you will at least take care that the accounts you shall send may receive all the authenticity in your power, giving us also every information that may found a demand for reimbursement

36 If you shall be in want of more surgeons to complete your establishment than we have already appointed to succeed on vacancies by our former orders, you are to take into our service the surgeons mates of the *Falmouth*, provided they are discharged from the ship and have certificates of their good behaviour from the captain

37 We have taken into consideration the dispute between Captain Vincent and his Chief Mate, Mr White, and upon examination we find that affair to have been in every circumstance nearly the same as you have represented to us, and although Captain Vincent's conduct and management at



Bencoolen was highly meritorious and deserving the mark of favour we have conferred upon him for that piece of service, yet in respect to his unkind treatment of his said chief officer Mr White and his very indecent and disrespectful behaviour to you whose authority over him and his officers he seemed to condemn and dispute, we have judged it expedient to give him a very severe reprimand in order to deter other commanders from acting in so unbecoming a manner and you may rest assured that we shall always countenance and support you in maintaining our authority and your own dignity whenever matters of this kind come under your cognizance. Mr White does not complain of any ill treatment during the passage home. You did well to warn Captain Vincent against it, and had he disregarded your injunctions, we should certainly have resented it in a proper manner

We are

Your Loving Friends

Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo. Dudley /  
Chas Cutts / Robt. Jones / J Purling /  
Fredk. Pigou / Heny Savage / E. H.  
Cruttenden / Thos. Rous / Luke Scraf-  
ton / F W Barrington / Jos. du Pré /  
John Stephenson / Thos. Saunders /  
Edwd. Wheler / George Cuming / Hen-  
Hadley / John Roberts / Charles Cham-  
bers / J Pardoe / J Creswicke / John  
Harrison.

London

26th April 1765

per Falmouth and Harcourt]

13

LETTER DATED 26 APRIL 1765

*Express anxiety at the continued war with Shujaud Daulah and Mir Qasim—recommend early conclusion of peace—affirm support to Clive in all his proposals*

RIGHT Hon<sup>ble</sup> Robert Lord Clive.

My Lord

We have with the greatest pleasure received the news of Your Lordship's arrival in good health at the Cape of Good Hope and although your passage to that place was not so expeditious as we could have wished  
per Falmouth Harcourt
 we hope the winds proved more favourable in the latter part of your voyage and that this letter will find Your Lordship in health and safety at Fort William

Our advices from Bengal in a Separate Letter of the 27th September last make us anxious for the issue of the war against Shuja Dowla and Canim

Aly Cawn We hope the expectation of Your Lordship's arrival will have had a happy influence on our affairs by hastening the conclusion of that expensive war and leaving you at full leisure to attend to the establishment of a firm and lasting peace, to the regulation of the trade in salt, beetle nut, tobacco and other articles, that it may be adjusted on such a plan to the satisfaction and with the concurrence of the Nabob as may redound to the honour of the Company and effectually prevent the confusion and oppression that have sprung from the abuses practised in it of late years, to the reduction of our enormous military expences, to the establishment of good order among our civil servants, discipline in our army, and harmony in the settlement These my Lord are our sanguine expectations founded on the experience of your great abilities and zeal for the Company's service in which we have the fullest confidence and we must beg leave to add our opinion that success in these great points will redound as much to Your Lordship's reputation as any of the great actions by which you have already been distinguished

Your Lordship may be assured of our firm support in everything, that can be suggested or proposed for the prosperity of the Company and your own honour

We are, my Lord,  
 Your Lordship's Loving Friends,  
 Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo Dudley /  
 Chas Cutts / Rob Jones / J Purling /  
 Fredk Pigou / Heny Savage / E H  
 Cruttenden / Thos Rous / Luke Scraf-  
 ton / F W Barrington / Jos du Pré /  
 John Stephenson / Thos Saunders /  
 Edwd Wheler / George Cuming / Hen  
 Hadley / John Roberts / Charles Cham-  
 bers / J Pardoe / J Creswicke / John  
 Harrison

London,  
 26th April, 1765  
 [Per *Falmouth* and *Harcourt*]

14

## LETTER DATED 13 DECEMBER 1765

*Composition of the Secret Committee of the Court of Directors—fortifications at St Helena—clandestine trade carried on by commanders and officers of the Company's ships—enjoin strict care in obtaining information of all private trade*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 The last letter we sent you was under date of the 26th April last, and was dispatched by the *Falmouth*, consigned directly to you, and the *Harcourt* carried duplicate by way of Bombay, and by the *Britannia* you will receive the triplicate of that letter,

2. We have the pleasure of informing you that since the date of our said letter the following named ships have safely arrived from our several settlements in India and from China *vizt*, the *Anson* from Bombay and *Boscawen* from Bengal on the 20th of May the *Lord Clive* from China and the *Devonshire* from Bengal on the 12th and 14th of June, the *Pocock* *Latham* *Northumberland* and *Norfolk* from China also the *Lord Mansfield* from Bombay between the 1st and 9th of July the *Lord Holland* and *British King* both from China the first put in at Kinsale in Ireland on the 30th of July and the other at Lisbon the 14th of the same month from whence they did not arrive in the Downes until *vizt* the *Lord Holland* the 27th August and the *British King* on the 29th September the *Worcester* from China came directly to the Downes the 6th of August, the *Vansittart* from Bengal reached Falmouth the 29th of August the *Pitt* from China and *Bencoolen* arrived in the Downes the 6th of October the *Earl of Lincoln* from China imported at Plymouth the same day also the *Valentine* from that place in the Downes the 11th October the *Caernarvon* from Bengal and Fort St. George at Spithead the same day the *London* from Bombay and *Tellicherry* in the Downes the 26th of the same month and the *Calcutta* from Bombay at the same place the 6th November

3 Besides the said ships belonging to the Company the following King's ships have arrived from the East Indies *vizt* the *Weymouth* at Kinsale on the 10th June the *Panther* the 12th of the same month at Spithead the *Medway* at Spithead the 27th of July and the *York* at Plymouth on the 9th of August.

4 For any further particulars with respect to the arrival and departure of shipping you are referred to the accompanying lists which are sent in the usual manner

5 The several letters from your Presidency in the course of this season came to hand by the undermentioned conveyances *vizt* duplicate Separate General Letter dated the 6th November 1764 General Letter and Separate Letter both dated the 26th of that month General Letter dated the 3rd December and from President Vansittart of the 26th November 1764 received per *Devonshire* the 15th June 1765 Separate General Letter of the 3rd January 1765 and General and Separate Letter of the 6th February following also from President Spencer of the said 6th February received per *Vansittart* the 9th September 1765

6. We now proceed to give you such general informations and directions as are necessary for your immediate notice and conduct and shall communicate our further sentiments upon the affairs of your Presidency by the following conveyances.

7 The gentlemen who compose the Secret Committee for the present direction are Henry Crabb Boulton Esqr Chairman of the Court George Dudley Esqr Deputy Charles Cutts Robert Jones Thomas Rous and Henry Savage Esqrs. Their power is to take the necessary precautions for the safety of our outward and homeward bound ships the orders therefore they or any three of them shall give for this purpose are to be obeyed by any person or persons to whom they are directed.

8 We have taken up the undernamed 22 ships this season for the several parts of India and China each of them being let for 422 tons with men and guns answerable they are twenty shillings a ton freight lower than the ships

of last season, and demorage in proportion, with respect to all other terms and conditions, they are the same as the preceding year, but for a more explicit information you are referred to their charterparties, the said ships, their commanders, consignments and the times proposed for their dispatch are as follows *vizt*,

Ships	Commanders	Consignments	Proposed times of dispatch
<i>Plassey</i>	William Peters	St Helena and China	dispatched
<i>Prince of Wales</i>	Jonathan Court		
<i>Earl of Ashburnham</i>	Thomas Pearce	. . . }	under dispatch
<i>Neptune</i>	Gabriel Steward		
<i>Glatton</i>	Richard Doveton		
		Fort St George and China	
<i>Lioness</i>	William Larkins	. . . }	end of December
<i>Hampshire</i>	John Smith		
<i>Duke of Kingston</i>	Richard Morrison		
<i>Britannia</i>	Thomas Bates	Madeira and Coast and Bay	under dispatch
	Rous		
<i>Deptford</i>	William Tryon	China directly	end of December
<i>Duke of Cumberland</i>	Alphonsus Glover		
<i>Havannah</i>	Thomas Madge	Bencoolen and China	middle January
<i>Hawke</i>	John Cotton		
<i>Cruttenden</i>	John Bowland		
		Madeira and Coast and Bay	
<i>Lord Camden</i>	Nathaniel Smith	Coast and Bay Island Theneriffe and Coast and Bay	beginning February
<i>Pigot</i>	George Richardson		
<i>Speaker</i>	James Dewar	Madeira and Bombay	
<i>Nottingham</i>	Thomas Howe	Bombay	beginning March
<i>Duke of Albany</i>	James Haldane		
<i>Anson</i>	Edward Lord Chick		
<i>Devonshire</i>	William Mercer	do and China	
<i>Osterley</i>	Frederick Vincent		

9 Agreeable to our annual custom, we have destined a ship for Bombay and China and the ship fixed upon for this purpose is the *Osterley*, Capt Frederick Vincent, she is to be employed in India in the most advantageous and profitable manner for the Company until early in the year 1767, when she is to be dispatched from the Coast of Malabar for Canton, with a cargo to the amount of forty thousand pounds sterling to be returned from thence to England. In case the *Osterley* shall by any unforeseen accidents, be prevented from proceeding the said voyage, the President and Council of Bomaby will be directed to send some other ship in her room. whatever assistance may be

necessary on your part for the success of the said voyage, you are to afford it in the most effectual manner whenever our said President and Council apply to you and even without such application if you have reason to think it may be wanted.

10 By the foregoing destination of our shipping it is to be observed that only four of the said ships are consigned to the Coast and Bay with a view of being returned from India the same season and five to Bombay for the same purpose, but as we are in hopes and indeed have little reason to doubt our Presidencies of Fort William and Fort St. George will be able to give full loadings for more than four ships, and on the other hand that the President and Council of Bombay cannot provide returning cargoes for the said five ships, you are therefore to take the earliest opportunities of mutually with our other Presidencies fixing upon a plan for the return of our several ships and in consequence thereof, that such of those for Bombay may be forwarded to you and Fort St. George without loss of time, as may be necessary to bring to England your respective investments.

11 It is proper to give you this further notice that as the demand for woollen goods at our Presidency of Bombay continues to be so considerable we propose yearly unless you are advised to the contrary to consign six ships thither one of which will as usual be directed to proceed to China to be laden home in the proper season from thence and one every other year from Mocha so that of the six ships taken up this year for Bombay you will observe five are to be returned home the same season from thence or else where (with the assistance of our other Presidencies) but the following year there will be only four to be returned as there will then be a ship destined for Mocha.

12 As our China Council should have every intelligence that may be necessary for their information with respect to the ships which are to be under their management you are therefore to observe it as a standing rule whenever any ships are dispatched from Bengal to China, to acquaint the commanders that it is our order they take all opportunities of writing to them in their voyage to China during their stay there and even afterwards if any thing material occurs.

13 As it is very difficult for us to supply our Governour and Council at St. Helena with a sufficient quantity of salt provisions for the use of the garrison and inhabitants and every demand for them by our shipping which call there will greatly distress them you are to give notice to the commanders of our homeward bound shipping from time to time to stock their ships with as much as they may want for the voyage home and you are further to acquaint them that if they have any to spare it will be very agreeable to us to make an offer of the same on the Company's account to our said Governour and Council.

14 Notwithstanding the commanders of our ships are by the covenants in charterparty and the directions in their respective instructions strictly enjoined and directed in their homeward bound voyage not to touch at any port whatsoever short of the Downs, except in cases of unavoidable danger or by particular directions yet they have in this respect of late taken very great and unwarrantable liberties under various pretences with a view only

as we are well satisfied, to run their goods, and thereby defraud the King and the Company of their duties, as we are determined to put a stop to this growing evil, a strict enquiry has been and will be continued to be made into the reasons of the several commanders putting into any ports short of the Downes, and several of them arrived this season, are now actually under our censure, and in particular, Capt Mitford of the *Northumberland* and his four first officers, are suspended the Company's service, for not giving satisfactory reasons for putting into Plymouth, and Capt Pigou of the *British King*, and his three first officers, are dismissed the service for disposing of large quantities of their private trade at Lisbon, where the said ship touched to have the main mast repaired, which although in her situation it appears to have been a necessary measure, it could by no means warrant their illegal proceedings, with respect to their private trade

15 We have thought it proper to give you the foregoing notices, that you may signify the same to the commanders of all our homeward bound ships, that they may have no pretence whatsoever for deviating from their charterparties and instructions in the beforementioned particulars

16 When we recommended the ships bound to and from China to proceed to Pitt's Passage, it was in a time of war with France, and we had in view therefore their better security from the enemy's cruizers, and that such ships which through the unavoidable necessity of those times, could not be dispatched in the proper seasons for making their passages in the usual track, might have some chance of succeeding in the other, but as neither of these cases are now subsisting, and finding by experience the Pitt's Passage is very hazardous, and that in general our ships from one accident or other have had their voyages greatly prolonged thereby, you are therefore in future to direct the commanders of any ships that may proceed from Bengal, to go in the usual track, and if any ships arrive at Bengal, too late for, or are by any accident prevented being dispatched the same season, we had much rather they should be detained until the following one, than be ordered to Pitt's Track, unless in very extraordinary cases, but then you are without fail to send them away as early as possible, we give similar orders to our other Presidencies with respect to the ships which may be forwarded from thence to Canton, as we also do to our supra cargoes for their guidance in dispatching the ships from China

17 The following named gentlemen are our Council of Supra Cargoes for managing the Company's affairs in China the ensuing season *vizt*, Messrs Thomas Fitzhugh, Henry Revell, Hillary Torriano, Nathaniel Garland, William Mackenzie, Stephen Devisme, Francis Wood, Benjamin Torin, Thomas Smith, Robert John Harrison, William Rous and Thomas Bevan

18 Messrs Revell, Torriano, Wood, Torin and Harrison take their passage in the two ships bound directly to China, all the others are now there in pursuance of our orders last season

19 The several ships which are to be under the management of the said Council are the *Fox* or any other ship which shall be sent from Bombay to Canton in her stead in the year 1766, agreeable to our advices last season, and if one of the ships of last season consigned to the President and Council of Bombay, was likely to remain on their hands for want of a cargo home from thence, or any of our Presidencies, or could not be employed in such a manner

until the following season so as to earn her full demorage at least such ship also was directed to be sent to Canton, and the *Harcourt* was recommended for this service. The other ships which are to be under the management of the said Council are the twelve noted in the list under the 8th paragraph of this letter *vizt* the two bound first to St. Helena, the six bound first to Fort St. George the two direct China ships, and the two which are to call first upon the West Coast also all such as shall arrive at Canton in 1766 from any of our settlements in India under the denomination of casual ships. The *Osterley* as has been already observed is intended for China in the year 1767 and will consequently fall under the direction of a succeeding set of supra cargoes.

20 We have appointed Messrs. Fitzhugh Revell DeVisme Torin Smith, Rous and Bevan our Resident Supra Cargoes at Canton for the year 1767 who are as usual to conduct and take charge of our affairs upon the departure of such of the beforementioned Council as are to leave China in the season of the year 1766 and before the arrival of those Supra Cargoes we shall appoint members for the succeeding Council.

21 We continue the prohibition for our China ships calling at Batavia outward bound and you are to notify the same to the commander or commanders of any casual ship or ships which may be dispatched from your Presidency to Canton if any such shall happen to be sent.

22. The principal articles of the intended export this season for our several Presidencies and China are nearly as hereunder mentioned *vizt.*,

#### *For Bengal*

Cloth 308 bales, long ells 45 bales, other piece goods 3 bales, silks 3 cases lead 100 tons, copper 200 tons, iron 150 tons steel 10 tons gunpowder 400 barrels of the usual weight small arms 296 chests, Madeira wine 125 pipes and vidonia wine from one of the Canary Islands 75 pipes. All the said articles are divided in nearly equal proportions on the ships *Britannia Crutenden Pigot* and *Lord Camden* except the wines which go by the conveyances hereafter noticed. For more explicit accounts of the beforementioned articles and the other consignments you are referred to the several ships invoices in providing whereof we have had a due attention to your indents which are complied with so far as we have judged really necessary

As your indent for woollens this season is small and we observe the remains in your warehouse are considerable we therefore now send you no more than about the quantity indented for as above mentioned

#### *For Fort St George*

Cloth 870 bales long ells 75 bales other piece goods 2 bales velvets 2 cases lead 100 tons copper 310 tons iron 200 tons steel 8 tons small arms 14 chests gunpowder 667 barrels of sixty pounds each Madeira wine 125 pipes and vidonia wine from one of the Canary Islands 75 pipes. The piece goods are divided in equal proportions on the ships *Earl of Ashburnham Neptune Claiton* and *Laoness* and all the other articles nearly so on the six China ships

bound first to Fort St George excepting the wines which go by the conveyances hereafter noticed

*For Bombay Presidency*

For Bombay market

Cloth 1597 bales, long ells 300 bales, broad long ells 75 bales, other piece goods 7 bales and cases, lead 300 tons, copper 460 tons, iron 300 tons, steel 50 tons, tin 20 tons, Madeira wine 50 pipes, gunpowder 240 barrels, small arms 262 chests

For Bussorah market

Cloth 648 bales, 20 of which are of a French fabrick, long ells 200 bales of 10 pieces in each

For the Bushire market

Cloth 710 bales, long ells 200 bales of 10 pieces in each, other piece goods 3 bales, velvets 1 case containing 3 pieces

For the Scindy market

Cloth 138 bales, long ells 32 bales, velvets 1 case containing 6 pieces

All the said several consignments are divided in nearly equal proportions on the six Bombay ships, except the wine, which all goes in the *Speaker*, and except also 322 bales of cloth and 176 bales of long ells which for want of room in the said ships are laden in equal proportions on the Fort St George ships *Hampshire* and *Duke of Kingston*, in order to be forwarded from thence to Bombay The said bales are part of the assortment intended for the Bombay market

*For Fort Marlborough*

Treasure 20 chests, iron 100 tons, flour 100 casks, beef and pork 30 half hogsheads of each, gunpowder 60 barrels, cordage 26 tons, ironmongers ware of several sorts 39 tons

All which articles go nearly in equal proportions on the two China ships bound first to Fort Marlborough

We are well satisfied that over and above the several consignments from hence our said Presidency will be in want of many particulars from our settlements in India, you are therefore agreeable to our repeated orders on this head to send such supplies thither as they shall stand in need of or indent for from time to time

*For Canton*

Treasure about 308 chests, cloth 475 bales, also 9 cases of best superfine do., long ells 600 bales, camblets 35 bales, lead 1360 tons.



The treasure goes *vizt* 60 chests on each of the two direct ships, 20 on each of the six Coast and China and the two St. Helena ships, and 14 on each of the West Coast ships.

The bales and cases are equally divided on the two direct China ships.

The lead goes in the following manner *vizt.*, on each of the two St. Helena ships 150 tons on each of the two Bencoolen ships 150 tons, on each of the six Coast ships 60 tons on each of the two direct China ships 200 tons

23 Among other articles of our export you will observe there are 125 pipes of Madeira wine to be consigned to you on the *Britannia*. As these wines were purchased last season under directions to our correspondents for their being the best the island produced and have lain by in their warehouses ever since, we hope and expect they will prove good however you are to give us a full account of their quality condition of the casks, leakage stowage and whatever else may be worthy of our information that we may be satisfied how our said correspondents have complied with our orders, and be enabled to make the owners answerable for leakage by bad stowage if any such shall appear upon a survey to be taken upon them at Fort William as usual.

24 Having reason to believe vidonia wine will be very proper to be sent to the East Indies and in a great measure if not altogether answer as well as that from Madeira, we have therefore ordered the *Pigot* to take in at Santa Cruz in Teneriffe one of the Canary Islands 150 pipes, each to guage full 115 gallons for which we are to pay ten pounds sterling a pipe including the casks with ten iron hoops thereon and all charges on board one moiety of which is to be consigned to your Presidency and the other to the President and Council at Fort St. George as they are to be provided at two distinct houses they are to be shipped as follows *vizt*

By Mr John Collogan	50 pipes for Fort St. George and 50 for Bengal.
By Messrs. Commyns	
Brothers and Powers	25                      do.                      25                      do

For the particulars of the said 75 pipes for your Presidency we refer you to the invoices and bills of lading and advices our said correspondents are to transmit to you by the *Pigot* from whom also you will receive by our directions certificates of the gauge and condition of the casks under their hands and of the captain or his officers in like manner as is practiced with the Madeira wine. The casks are also to be burnt with an iron near the bung with the Company's mark and the marks of each house are to be on their respective casks. These precautions will enable you to send us an account of the condition quantities and qualities of the wines you receive from each house which together with a survey of their stowage on board are to be sent us by the first opportunity

25 You are hereby positively directed to put up all the said vidonia wine consigned to you at public sale except what is to be sent to Fort Marlborough as undermentioned and send us an exact account of the amount of each lot or pipe you are likewise to give us your opinion how it is esteemed and what quantities may be annually disposed of. And as we are very desirous of introducing the use of it in the East Indies you are to take every measure that

may facilitate the same, and we shall as a further trial send you the same quantity the next season

26 You are without fail to send to Fort Marlborough out of the parcels of wine consigned to you, four pipes of Madeira and four pipes of vidonia by the first good conveyance that offers The President and Council at Fort St George are directed also to send thither the same quantity out of what goes consigned to them

27 It is with particular satisfaction we observe your attention to that important branch of our commerce, the China trade, by sending such supplies from time to time as have in conjunction with our Presidency of Fort St George prevented and we hope will prevent any of our ships lying by the walls there, not only those of the season of 1764 but also those of the following year, yet we must observe that had your assistance by the *Argo* man of war been transmitted by an earlier conveyance, it would have proved much more effectual We have in our letter of the 21st November 1764 laid it down as a standing rule, until you have orders to the contrary, to have this object constantly in view, and we shall accordingly depend upon your having in compliance therewith, as well as of the assurances in your letter of the 27th of September 1764, continued such efforts as will enable you to send as large a supply of money and goods as can be conveniently spared from the investment and expences of your Presidency, and this we shall expect and depend upon, notwithstanding the considerable consignments made by us to our China Council both the last and the present season

28 The directions we gave last season were that no ships under the description of a casual one be sent to Canton on any pretence whatsoever, unless she could have a cargo to the amount of twenty thousand pounds at least, consigned on her to our China Council We now direct that no casual ship be sent thither, without having a cargo to the amount of thirty thousand pounds at least.

29 It being necessary for the fortifications, works and buildings at St Helena to be repaired and many new ones constructed, and which are now carrying on by a skilful engineer, under the direction of the Governour and Council, we have directed them to apply to you, our other Presidencies, and China Council, for any supplies of materials of use for those purposes, which can be procured and can be laden on our returning ships, consistently with the room that can be spared, after the intended cargoes for England are provided for, you are therefore in case of such application from our said Governour and Council to comply with their indents as far as lays in your power

30 As the Governour and Council at St Helena will from the additional number of slaves they have lately been supplied with, be in want of more provisions than they have usually received from our Presidencies, you are therefore to encrease your consignments of rice on each ship to double the quantity you have generally sent, and as we are sensible, by those means you will exceed the stipulated charterparty tonnage of five tons on each ship, you are to inform the respective commanders, that we will pay their owners here half freight for such exceedings, being the same freight we allow for the said five tons, with respect to the other stores and necessaries they are to be sent

as usual without diminution agreeable to the annual indents forwarded to you by our said Governour and Council. This order is to continue in force until you are informed to the contrary either from us or from our said Governour and Council.

31 We take this earliest opportunity of transmitting to you the list of the investment to be made at your Presidency the ensuing season, to which you are to give all due attention and obedience not only with respect to the quantities of the goods therein ordered, but likewise the qualities, and such remarks as are made for your information and guidance. But if you can encrease the quantities so far as to give as full loadings as possible to the several ships you may have to provide for it will be of signal use to the Company and we shall confide in your best endeavours for this purpose.

32. It being now a time of peace and consequently the demand for salt petre much short of what it has been for several years past and as we have at this time a very large quantity undisposed of, adding thereto what we shall most probably receive by the ships of next season it is necessary to lessen the importation thereof as far as may be prudently done for this purpose all the Coast and Bay and Bombay ships taken up this season carry whole kindlage in iron consequently no more saltpetre is to be laden on them than for want of bale goods will make up the tonnage they are let for to the Company according to their respective charterparties unless the commanders will agree to take in more as surplus tonnage at the low freight.

33 The annual demand for saltpetre at our sales, with the 500 tons we are obliged by the Company's charter to supply the Government with amounting together to 2000 tons, it is our meaning that the ships of each season from whatever Presidency they are dispatched should all together bring home as nearly as may be to the amount of the said 2000 tons, rather over than under We give you this information that you may take the earliest opportunities of concerting the necessary measures with our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay and that you in particular may regulate your conduct accordingly with respect not only to the quantity to be laden on each ship to be dispatched home from Bengal, but also as to what is to be sent to our other Presidencies.

34 We must further remark to you that the Scindy petre received from Bombay is so bad in quality as well as of an extravagant price we last season gave directions that no more should be sent us unless it could be brought nearly to the fineness and price of that from your Presidency so that it is more than probable no more Scindy petre will be sent us and consequently the whole of the beforementioned 2000 tons will be Bengal petre

35 We have chosen and appointed the under named young gentlemen writers upon your establishment who are to take rank in the order they are here mentioned *viz.*, John Fitzherbert William Nixon William Howe, Thomas Pattle Shearman Bird Robert Howitt Matthew Dawson John Gordon Haliburton Henry Revell Junr., John Lawson Nicholson Anthony Kennett Goodlad John Lloyd Booth William Makepeace Thackeray Francis Stoddart John Hogarth Thomas Crosley Cooke William Redfearn William Pawson, Robert Ray Robert Colvill, Suetonius Grant Heatly Edward Rixon and Samuel Mitchell. The ships they proceed in will be notified to you by

lists in the respective packets, you are as usual immediately on their arrival to make an enquiry whether they met with proper treatment in their passage and advise us thereof

36 William Hosea and Robert Howitt, two of the abovementioned writers being, as we are informed, resident at Bengal you are to give them notice of such their appointment and they are to execute the covenants enclosed in the *Britanna's* packet which are afterwards to be returned to us by the first opportunity that shall offer

37 Being well satisfied that the large supply of writers sent you last season, and appointed thus as beforementioned, will if properly looked after, be fully and we apprehend more than sufficient in addition to the rest of the covenant servants upon your establishment, for every service in the civil department We shall therefore depend upon your constant care and attention in employing in the several stations, not only the writers, but all other our covenant servants in such a manner, that the Company may have the utmost benefit of their services, and if any of them are negligent or in any respect misbehave, you are to rebuke and admonish them whenever you see necessary and if that will make no good impression on them, such unprofitable and useless servants are then to be forthwith sent to England

38 Considering from what we have observed that our covenant servants will with great ease be able to carry on every branch of our civil service, it is therefore absolutely necessary, and we accordingly positively direct, that the orders in our letter last season of the 21st November be punctually complied with for discharging all monthly writers, as there can be no pretence for retaining them any longer, we do not mean, however, that you should discharge such as are assisting in the translation of foreign and country languages but even in this case no more are to be retained at any time than are immediately and absolutely necessary

39 We have permitted Mr Thomas Peiarce, one of the writers for Fort St George, to proceed first to Bengal to settle some family concerns, where his stay is not to exceed six months, he is then forthwith to take passage at his own expence for his station on the Fort St George establishment, on the first conveyance that offers, and you will take care that he complies with the terms of our said permission accordingly

40 The names of the several persons who have our permission to proceed to and reside in the East Indies as free merchants, in the seafaring way or otherwise are and will be sent to you in the several packets, as usual signed by our Secretary

41 The like is done with respect to such persons as we permit to proceed to India in the quality of surgeons, who are to be provided for in the Company's service, if found deserving at any of our settlements after those who have been already recommended, if any such there are

42 We also send you in the several ships' packets lists of the names of the young gentlemen who are to be cadets upon your establishment, and we direct that they be promoted in the order they are therein ranked if they behave well

43 Mr Samuel Bartholomew Case, a writer upon your establishment,

who you permitted to come to England on account of his bad state of health, and recommending him for his good behaviour to be reinstated in the service if his health would permit his return being now recovered proceeds to his station in one of the ships of this season he is accordingly upon his arrival to take rank in the same manner as if he had not come to England.

44 Finding upon examination of the returns from your Presidency as likewise those from Fort St. George and Bombay that the number of commission officers at each very considerably exceeds the respective establishments, we are come to a resolution to send out none this season and especially as there is no occasion for any to proceed with the recruits hereaftermentioned, the number on each ship not requiring a commission officer to take care of them in their passage, as has been the case for some seasons past when the ships carried such large numbers as rendered a measure of that kind necessary

45 In the several ships of this season bound to the Coast and Bay we send out about eight hundred recruits, with a proportionate number of sergeants and corporals, which we are of opinion will be fully sufficient to keep up the several corps agreeable to yours and the Madrass establishments.

46. By the lists in the several ships packets you will observe that part of the said recruits are intended for your Presidency they are accordingly upon their arrival, to be incorporated in the several corps where they are most wanted.

47 We are to inform you likewise that the ships bound to Bombay will carry thither about four hundred and eighty recruits with sergeants and corporals in proportion, which number will not only be sufficient for the Presidency but part thereof may be spared and draughted off for Bengal or Fort St. George if either or both those Presidencies shall have occasion for them and we give the necessary orders accordingly to our President and Council of Bombay

48. Notwithstanding what is mentioned in the 46th paragraph if the proportion of the recruits intended for Fort St. George should be more immediately wanted in Bengal we have directed all or any part of them to be forwarded to you from Fort St. George accordingly. On the other hand if it shall happen that the situation of our affairs upon the Coast may render it absolutely and really necessary for the general interest of the Company and not otherwise to stop any of the recruits designed for Bengal they are permitted during such exigency only to detain so many of them as may be wanted provided as before observed they shall not be more immediately wanted at your Presidency

49 As we have frequently laid it down as a rule that our several Presidencies are to give each other every mutual assistance to the utmost of their power we now recommend this object to your constant particular care and attention and as in all probability you may want that assistance more than the others we have strongly recommended it to Fort St. George that as far as circumstances there can possibly admit every application for assistance be complied with that shall be made by you to the President and Council there and the Presidency of Bombay have the like orders

50 The clandestine trade carried on by the commanders and officers of the Company's ships in their outward bound voyages, particularly in woollen goods, iron, lead, copper, great guns, small arms, shot and other military stores, is not only greatly to interfere with, and prejudice the trade, which ought to be most inviolably reserved to the Company, but likewise in [is] being the means of furnishing the country powers with arms, which we have too much reason to believe has been, and may be turned against the Company, and contribute to keep up the troubles which we have been so long struggling with in the several parts of India. In order to put an end to these injurious and illegal practices, we are taking every possible method to find out the persons guilty of them, so as besides dismissal from our service, we may be enabled to proceed against them with the utmost rigour of the law, and as we are thus determined, we shall expect and positively direct, that you give all the aid and assistance in your power, by strictly observing and carrying into execution all our orders and directions on this head, particularly those of last season. And we now give you to understand, that if you do not faithfully, diligently and strictly comply with them, you will most certainly incur our highest displeasure. We cannot help expressing ourselves in this strong manner, as hitherto you have been totally negligent of, or inattentive to, this material part of your duty, and notwithstanding what you say in your letter of the 26th November 1764 with respect to the *Caernarvon*, we cannot help thinking you might, if you had been inclined, have made some discovery of the private trade you were acquainted, we were informed, was on board that ship, by entering upon such an examination of the captains, officers, ship's company or others as might have in some measure answered the purpose.

51 To the directions which have been already given, we are to add, that as you are in general to cause the strictest care to be taken upon the delivery of every ship by such ways and means, and with such assistance as you shall judge most effectual, to get an exact information of all the private trade landed or on board, but you are in particular to be more attentive to such ships in which you have any informations from us, or from any other person or persons whatsoever, any unlicensed goods may have been taken in, and if you find it necessary, you are to examine in the most solemn manner upon oath, all and every passenger in such ship, whether in our service or otherways, as to the receipt on board, or delivery from the ship, of any goods whatsoever during the course of the voyage, and if any of them shall refuse to answer, let an account of their names be transmitted to us, that the proper notice may be taken of them. The captain and officers are likewise to be examined, but not upon oath, you are to send us by the first proper conveyance full and true accounts of all your proceedings, in which you are very particularly to mention and describe the several contraband goods that shall be found in such ship or ships, with the names of the proprietors thereof, and every other information, that may enable us to deal with the offenders in a suitable manner.

52 We have dismissed from the Company's service, Capt Richard Lewin, Commander of the *Vansittart*, for taking on board in Madeira Road, a large quantity of iron, cannon, military stores, cloth and other illicit articles from a vessel which sailed from England for that purpose, and although it does not appear that his officers had any interest in the said clandestine trade, we have

given them a very severe reprimand for refusing through the influence of Captain Lewin to acquaint us of what they knew of this transaction. We shall have proceeded further had they not at last humbly acknowledged themselves sensible of their error and given us the strongest assurances of never giving the Company any occasion to find fault with their future conduct.

53 John Rogers, Chief Mate of the ship *Caernarvon* having been found guilty of taking in on his own account at Madeira six casks containing each one bale and two small boxes of cloth we have likewise dismissed him from the Company's service.

54 Having received certain information that one hundred bales and cases of cloth were taken on board the *Hector* in April last off Plymouth but out of sight of land from a sloop which followed the ship from the river Thames for that purpose we have directed our President and Council at Fort St. George to send Captain Edmund Massey who commanded the said ship to England but should he be at your Presidency upon the receipt of this, or at any time afterwards, you are hereby ordered and directed to send or cause him to be sent to England without fail and as soon after the receipt of this as possible.

55 With respect to the following named officers of the said ship *Hector* if any of them shall be on the receipt of this or at any time afterwards at Bengal vizt Thomas Johnston chief mate, Francis Barford second mate Henry Kent third mate George Pack fourth mate Richard Penny gunner and John McCaba boatswain you are to examine them in the strictest manner if our President and Council at Fort St. George should not have done it and if you find any one or more of them had any property or concern in the beforementioned illicit goods you are to send home such person or persons likewise to England by the first conveyances if on the contrary it shall appear to your satisfaction that they had no property or concern therein we permit of their staying in India. But as the said goods could not have been received aboard without their knowledge and if they have made no discovery to you you are in our name to reprimand them in the severest manner for such neglect to the Company.

56. We have many other informations before us and we shall proceed against such persons who have or shall appear to be concerned in such illicit trade with the utmost rigour as observed in the 50th paragraph.

57 Notwithstanding the *Britannia* is consigned to you we have ordered Captain Rous after leaving Madeira to proceed first and make the best of his way to Fort St. George to deliver our packet directed to our President and Council there and to give them an opportunity of taking out all or any of the military recruits on board the said ship if they are more wanted at that Presidency than in Bengal in doing which we have directed them to be as expeditious as possible and then to give Captain Rous orders to proceed without loss of time to Fort William.

58. We have acquainted our President and Council at Fort St. George that if it shall be more for the Company's interest to forward the said recruits to Bengal or any number the ship can carry in addition to them they are to

do so accordingly, in which case likewise the ship is to be dispatched as before directed with the utmost expedition

59 Being informed that several of the commanders now outward bound had considerable quantities of iron on board their respective ships, over and above what we had given leave for, upon examining into the same, they acknowledged that the following quantities had been laden *vizt*,

	Laden				Of which Victualling		Exceeding			
	Tons	Cwt	qr	lb	Tons	Tons	Tons	Cwt	qr	lb
On the <i>Britannia</i>	41	12	2	7	20	4	17	13	2	7
„ „ <i>Glatton</i>	20	11	—	26	8	4	8	11	—	26
„ „ <i>Neptune</i>	55	2	—	7	16	4	35	2	—	7
„ „ <i>Earl of</i> <i>Ashburnham</i>	26	8	3	27	15	4	7	8	3	27
„ „ <i>Hampshire</i>	49	—	—	—	20	4	25	—	—	—
„ „ <i>Lioness</i>	45	13	2	16	14½	4	27	3	2	16
							Tons	120	19	1 27 [sic]

60 The said several commanders assured us that they gave their tradesmen orders for the quantities only which they were allowed to carry out, and that they did not know of the exceedings until the Company's orders were given to make the enquiry, however, upon considering every circumstance of this transaction, and in order to prevent the like practices in future, we have taken for the Company's use the whole quantities of iron shipped as abovementioned, excepting only the four tons allowed for each ship on the victualling bill, and the same are added to the said ships invoices accordingly *vizt*, that by the *Britannia* is consigned to your Presidency and all the other parcels to Fort St George

61 Although we have retained all the iron as above observed on the Company's account yet as the said commanders acknowledged their offence, we have been so indulgent as to pay them here the prime cost of the quantities we had respectively allowed them, the amounts of all the rest are forfeitures to the Company as illicit trade, in a word, the whole quantity of iron on board each ship, excepting as before observed what is allowed on the victualling bill, belongs to the Company

62 Besides the said forfeitures we have severely reprimanded the said several commanders, and acquainted them, that if they should in future be guilty of anything of a similar nature or concerned in any illicit trade, they must expect to meet with our highest resentment

63 Although we say as above that all the iron aboard the said ship except what is allowed on the victualling bill belongs to the Company, we must add, that what any of the officers are licensed to carry is also to be excepted, the amount of which will appear in the respective manifests and to serve for your guide with respect to the ship *Britannia*



64 You must send us for our information a full and particular account of all the iron landed from the said ship *Britannia*.

We are,  
Your Loving Friends,

H. Crabb Boulton / Geo Dudley / Thos.  
Rous / Robt. Jones / J Purling / George  
Cuming / John Harrison / Fredk. Pigou /  
Henry Savage / John Stephenson / Edwd.  
Wheler / Wm Webber / Thos. Saun-  
ders / F W Barrington / J Creswicke /  
Charles Chambers / J Pardoe / Hen Had-  
ley / Luke Sraffton / Cha. Cutts / John  
Roberts / Jos. Du Pré / E. H. Cruttenden.

London  
13th December 1765

## 15

## LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1765

*Civil servants above the rank of writers ordered to attend kotha in rotation—memorials not to be erected without prior approval—observations on accounts of revenues in Burdwan province—deplore extraordinary expenses of Burdwan Residency—directions regarding Chittagong port and province—object to 2½% taken by servants from the Amindars of Midnapore and Raja of Burdwan—directions regarding coinage and currency—method of appointing Resident at Burdwan—abolition of double batta.*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 We have already writ to you under date of the 13th instant by the ships *Britannia* *Glatton* *Earl of Ashburnham* and *Neptune*. Our said letter contained several general informations and directions which were necessary for your immediate notice. In this letter we shall make such additions thereto as have since occurred to us and proceed under the usual heads to make our observations upon your several transactions as they stand in your General Letters and registers in the Publick Department received in the course of this season reserving what relates to the Separate Department for a distinct letter which you will now also receive bearing even date with this.

2 Having in the last paragraph of our letter of the 15th February 1765 observed to you that although the animadversions made in the course thereof upon the several transactions at your settlement were addressed as usual to the President and Council they were not to be understood as affecting any persons who were not members at the time of such transactions otherwise than as

cautions and directions for your conducting the Company's affairs in future, you are to understand we mean the same with respect to the several matters which are taken up in this and our Separate Letter mentioned in the preceding paragraph

### *First of shipping*

3 We have already given our approbation of the provision you made for China, but though the *Argo* frigate of war was a good opportunity of

Lre from 6th Fe- conveying the treasure thither, yet so great a risk as near  
bry 1764 Pa 9 [26 £1,20,000 on one ship should be avoided in future, unless  
Nov 1764?] in cases of absolute necessity However, your sending a pilot  
Consults 22nd & vessel to go with her through the Islands, or even to China,  
25th Octr if necessary, was a measure that meets with our approbation But we cannot  
say the same with respect to the allowance of three and an half per cent freight  
to the commander of the *Argo* frigate for carrying the said treasure which we  
think was an extravagant premium, especially as we have never given more  
than two and an half per cent on silver which has been sent from hence  
to India on His Majesty's ships We therefore expect to have your reasons for  
making such a large allowance

4 The ship *Calcutta* we observe carried 5000 bags of saltpetre to Bombay which are only about 334 tons If you had no more saltpetre or other goods

Lre from 26th to have sent there on our account, notice should have been  
Nov 1764 Para 77 given for letting the remainder on freight that her charter-  
6th Febrv 1765 party tonnage might have been completed It is a very  
Para 7 great, and has of late been a very frequent neglect of  
our interest to suffer ships to sail so far short of their proper tonnage, and  
you must therefore see that this is carefully attended to and prevented  
in future

5 We have considered that part of your General Letter of the 27th September 1764 together with your Consultations on the 26th March and 2nd April preceding with regard to the loss of the ship *Winchelsea*, and upon the whole we are of opinion you were highly blameable in permitting Captain Howe her commander to come to England before you made an enquiry into the said loss, also for not going into an examination of that affair yourselves instead of referring it to the consideration of Messrs Scott, Keble and Wedderburne We also cannot help remarking that notwithstanding Captain Howe left his second and fourth mates at Bengal, it does not appear that either of those officers, or any other persons, were examined excepting the pilot

6 And as we agree in opinion with you that the loss of the abovementioned ship was principally owing to the pilot, Thomas Grant, his not keeping the sloop ordered to attend her in a proper station when the ship was under sail, your dismissing him the service was a very right measure, but as we have had an extreme good character of his knowledge and abilities as a pilot, we are not desirous of entirely losing him, we therefore leave it to you to reinstate him if you have no good reasons, from any instances, to the contrary However, you are to give him in such case the necessary cautions for his future conduct

7 It is matter of surprize to us, that the sloops built at Chittagong should have cost nearly the same as those built at Bombay considering how much cheaper labour must be in so plentiful a country as the former And it is to be further remarked that the Pegue ships built on that coast were never deemed equally serviceable with those of Bombay That we may be enabled to form a judgement whether it may be worth while to encourage building vessels at Chittagong we would have you send us in as particular a manner as possible the prices of timber and all other the materials made use of for that purpose the wages paid to workmen and every expence whatsoever together with all such observations as may tend to our information in this matter

Consults. 26th  
Janry 1764

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

8. As we are apprehensive that a large quantity of lead being put up to sale may be productive of inconveniencies from part being converted into shot by the country powers and as so large a quantity as 300 tons was consigned to you last year we have therefore ordered only 100 tons to be sent you this season and we would have you reserve a sufficient quantity for your own use before you put any part up to sale.

9 Your indent for military stores is uncommonly great notwithstanding the remains of those stores are very considerable you must therefore be extremely careful not to indent in future for more than are absolutely necessary Your marine indent is likewise to an extraordinary amount and so little care seems to have been taken in proportioning the demands to your wants that we apprehend very little attention has been paid to drawing out your indents, and that you have neglected to observe our repeated orders of having at such times the accounts of remains before you These considerations together with the want of room in our ships, are the occasion of your indents being much curtailed We have nevertheless taken particular care to send you the 6000 musquets desired in your last indent and also completed the deficiency in that article of last year

10 That we may be the better enabled to judge what stores to order the marine indents must in future express in separate columns what proportion of each article is designed for the Company's use and what for sale and you are to assign your reasons in the indents for desiring any particular article

11 Your account of remains is imperfect in the article of canvas the whole quantity remaining being set down in one sum instead of describing the quantity of each number and which we would have done in future You must also particularize the separate number of each different sort of flints whether for musquets carbines or pistols

12. As the hats you indent for would take up much room in our ships, and it has not been usual for the Company to provide them the captains must continue to furnish themselves from private persons as they have hitherto done

13 In regard to the 5000 pair of shoes desired for the military as they

appear to us very essential for the preservation of our soldiers' healths, we have ordered 3000 pair being as many as could be conveniently sent in the ships

14 We have complied with your indents for books for the use of the church and for the utensils for the mint

15 We are pleased to observe your attention in affording supplies to our settlements upon the West Coast, and we recommend it to you not to neglect any favourable opportunities of continuing the same

### *Thirdly of investments*

16 On your Consultation of the 17th May we see with great concern that you suspended purchasing the investments of Dacca and Cossimbuzar and even ordered down two lacks of rupees from the former And here we cannot but observe that your diverting the funds destined for the investment to the support of the war was distressing us in our most essential interest

17 We observe with pleasure that Mr De La Porte has been sent to make the tour of the *aurungs* and hope the experience he will thereby acquire will qualify him to be of service to us under the Export Warehouse Keeper at the Presidency, and as the knowledge of the various manufacturers is so essential a qualification in all our servants, we direct that all of them above the station of writers be ordered to attend the *cottah* in rotation

18 We recommend it to you as an object worth your earnest attention to turn the channel of the investment as much as you can into our own provinces which will make our money circulate within ourselves and return to us in our revenues

19 We wrote you very fully last year on the subject of the complaints made here by the Dutch on the obstructions they had met with in their opium trade of which we expect a particular account from you Your Consultations mention an agreement between the Dutch and you respecting this trade, copy of which ought to have stood on your registers and in similar cases must not be neglected in future We have only to add that you should early in the year order the quantity of opium you may require for the Company, and till that is provided, no purchases are to be made by our servants on their private account

### *Fourthly concerning the country government, European powers and the trade of India*

20 We are very glad you have had no disputes of a publick nature with the Dutch As all foreign nations will be jealous of our growing power, you should take great care not to encroach on their rights or give them just cause of offence At the same time the like attention must be had to the just rights and privileges of the Company in any of your transactions with their representatives, observing however, all the moderation that is due to the friendship at present subsisting between our respective sovereigns

## LETTER FROM COURT

21 What further relates to this head will be taken notice of in our letter to you upon the business of the Separate Department.

*Fifthly of fortifications buildings and revenues*

22 Captain Fleming Martin's account of the fortifications at your Presidency in his letter of the 26th November 1764 alarms us much and we are surprised such a letter should have passed through your hands without any observations thereon and until we receive such remarks can only make this general observation—that such errors as may have been committed in the original plan cannot now be altered. We must depend upon your attention to remedy any apparent defects in the present works and particularly to guard against the encroachment of the River and you are not to suffer our Engineer to proceed on any thing material without your express approbation and your reasons for such approbation

23 With respect to Captain Martin's request for having the rank of Major and the office of Superintendant of making Bricks acquaint him that he must remain contented with the agreement he made with us on his first appointment which we then thought as we do now a very handsome provision for him

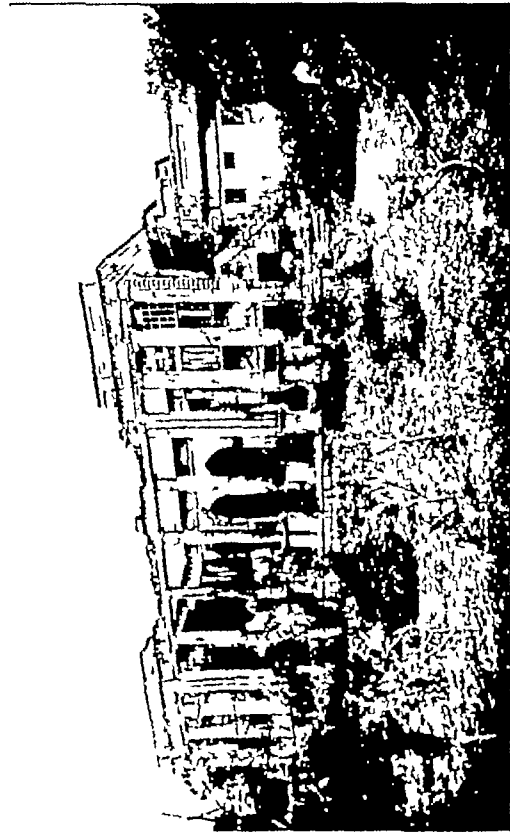
24 Having received a letter from the said Captain Martin dated the 1st December 1764 which does not appear to have been laid before you and being a very extraordinary one we send you a copy of it for your information and to send us the necessary observations thereon. And we think it here proper to lay down as an invariable rule that whatever remarks any of our servants may have to make on the Company's affairs they be first addressed to the Governor and Council that at the same time we may have your sentiments and remarks upon them

25 In confidence that your recommendation of Captain Anthony Polier to be our head engineer at your settlement in case of a vacancy is founded on the most ample proof of his abilities for so important an undertaking we leave it to you if Captain Martin declines our service upon the terms we agreed upon with him when he went out to appoint Captain Polier our Chief Engineer in his room and in such case Captain Martin must be sent to England by the first conveyance

26 In your Consultation of the 9th February 1764 you mention Captain Lewis Felix Du Clos who came with the detachment from Bombay being entertained as a Captain Engineer. But his appointment not appearing either in any of your letters or lists of that corps we cannot avoid reminding you of this instance of irregularity and you are to give us your reasons in a very particular manner for this appointment

27 We find by your Consultation of the 23rd July 1764 that you have taken Mr John Fortnorn into the service as a Civil Architect and soon after his arrival doubled his pay. The office appears necessary but we do not approve of doubling his pay before his services could have merited it. You are to give us your reasons for so doing and we lay it down as a rule that you are to make no extraordinary allowances without our consent





Nir Jfar & Dzeankhaua at Jfargan]

28 As we disapprove of the office of Superintendant of the Bricks, we therefore direct on the receipt of this that you abolish it  
 Cons 19th Nov 1764 This branch we would have fall within the duty of the Committee of Works, and our engineer and his assistants must see that the Company are well served

29 We would have you postpone building the church at your Presidency till the accommodation for the servants, barracks for the soldiers and every other building of consequence is completed  
 Cons 12th Novr 1764

30 We do not conceive the propriety of erecting a new council room, as the new buildings in the Fort, where all the Company's business is to be carried on must soon be built The objection you make to the present room for its being contiguous to the publick offices appears very singular, as in our opinion it should be in the centre of the offices, that recourse may be had to the papers more readily  
 Cons 25th Octr 1764

31 As we do not think you have given sufficient reasons for making the new post of Surveyor of the Publick Roads with the salary annexed of rupees 180 per month, we therefore direct that Mr William Altham be no longer continued in that employ and that the said post be abolished until the utility thereof more fully appears Nor is a free merchant at any time to be taken into the Company's pay unless there be the most evident necessity for so doing  
 Cons 12th Novr 1764

32 Although we would ever be thought to entertain a just sense of the merit of those who have bravely suffered in our service, yet we do not approve of your erecting any monuments or memorials of such without first having transmitted us an estimate of the expence thereof and obtained our leave for that purpose And here we must express our surprize that you took such a measure in regard to the monuments you ordered on the 18th June and 10th September 1764 to be put up for Admiral Watson, the sufferers at Patna, and Major Adams, and direct that you send us plans and inscriptions thereof with an account of the expence incurred thereby

33 We observe in your Consultation of the 12th March 1764 another house bought for the Nabob, we expect you give us your reasons for this extraordinary expence, and direct that you buy no more houses for the Company as we suppose the buildings in the New Fort will soon be ready

34 The following observations have occurred to us from the perusal of your Consultations and the several accounts relative to our revenues

35 By the cash account of the Burdwan province from June 1762 to June 1763, it appears that the cutcherry receipts for that period were *sicca* rupees 44,70,324-10-0 By Consultation 4th May 1762, it should appear, that our servants did not interfere in the collection of the Rajah's<sup>1</sup> own estate, which by the account then given in, is rated at rupees 5,73,142 If we err in this statement, it is from your manner of representing it, if not, then the sum total collected in one year was 50,43,466-13-10 besides 1,46,000 *begas* of land reserved for the support of twenty nine thousand servants



Of the above sum there were paid into our treasury 36 09,524-7 10

Other disbursements were —

	Rupees
An interest bond	35,500- 0- 0
Charity	2,500- 0- 0
Rajah's troops	3,95,363 12 0
Rajah's expences	2,45,207 1 5
Banians wages	30,697 4 0
Charges general	15,038- 6-10
Charges Residency	53,227 0- 0
Roads and bridges	37 756- 0- 0
	<hr/>
	8,15 439- 7 15 [sic]
Balance in the cutcherry	45,360-14- 5
Rajah's estate collected by his own servants	5 73 142 0- 0
	<hr/>
	Rupees 50 43 466-13-10
In the following year the receipts under the same head are	48,95 475-14 4
Of which the Company receive	34 73,301 3-10
Disbursements	14,22,174 10 14
	<hr/>
	Rupees 48,95,475-14 4

From this it evidently appears there are fourteen to fifteen lacks of rupees collected annually more than the Company receive which has led us to remark on the several disbursements.

36. In Consultation of the 23rd May 1761 Mr Sumner is directed to pay the arrears of the Rajah's troops and to discharge all but a proper retinue yet in 1763 the charge for troops retained is more than a lack of rupees. We desire to know why the order for the reduction of the troops was not complied with and we see no reason why this expence was not entirely struck off and the province defended by our own troops.

37 The charge for the Rajah's own expences for 1762 is rupees 2,18,657 5-0 and in 1763 is rupees 2,61,269-0-0 which as far as we can understand is exclusive of the income of his own estate valued at rupees 5 73 142-0-0

38. Though a due regard should be had to any agreement which might have been made with the Nabob or with the Rajah respecting his support and authority in the province at the time it was assigned over to us yet we think if he has really such an allowance made him exclusive of the income of his own estate it is too great a burthen on the province. And with this evidence before you we cannot think you considered our interest in accepting thirty four lacks for the year neither do we see cause for any such agreement observing our servants have had the collections of the province entirely under their management but if for the reputation of our government it is found necessary to maintain the Rajah in his dignity it must be done at less expence and the excess of the military expences and of the Rajah's own expences must in your future agreement be deducted from the disbursements and added to our revenues.

39 We shall remark on the great charge of the Residency in another place, and shall here observe, that after having ascertained the value of the province, we see no reason for continuing the Residency there, as the revenues may be as well attended to by the Board at the Presidency

40 By your Consultation of the 20th September 1764, we observe upwards of six lacks of rupees have fallen *cross*<sup>2</sup>, by which we understand that being rated too high, the zemindars have returned them on your hands, whereby it appears Mr Johnstone had stretched them beyond their real value, nearly as far as he exceeded Mr Sumner's estimation We hope no loss is to arise hereon to the Company and must observe to you that keeping lands in your own hands is multiplying business, is liable to abuse, and implies too much severity in our Government

41 We observe in your above mentioned Consultation, a demand on the Rajah for debts due by him to several bankers and others to the amount of forty three lacks of rupees As the Rajah has had his own estate in his hands, he ought from thence to have satisfied his debts You are neither to protect these claimants, nor permit the Company to suffer in their revenues to satisfy their demands

42 You did very well to have an eye to defence in the construction of the factory buildings at Burdwan

43 We have reserved for the last remark on this province, the extraordinary expence of the Residency, of which we never had any particulars, till the last Burdwan cash account received by the *Vansittart*, which was forwarded by the Secretary after the General Letter was closed, and explains it to consist of the following gratifications to our servants

The Chief	3000 rupees per month
Second	1500 do
Third	1300 do
The military officer	500 do

forming altogether an expence of rupees 75,000 per annum [*sic*] The making our servants dependent on the Rajah for their allowances, is in itself a dishonour to and quite inconsistent with the nature of our service, nor can we look on it in any other light than depriving the Company of a great sum from their revenues, for if the Rajah had not paid this vast sum to our servants, he might and ought to have paid so much addition to the annual revenue for his province We therefore order that such of the Company's servants who have been employed in that station since the province was first made over to the Company, shall pay into our treasury whatever they have received from the Rajah, and shall be allowed for the time past at the following rates per annum

The Chief	Rupees 6000	} for all charges and expences whatever
Second	1500	
Third	1000	

which are to be the future allowances to the servants who it may be found necessary to employ on that service If any of the servants refuse to refund what we deem so unjustly obtained, we order you to dismiss them our service and they must be sent to England to answer for their conduct to us

44 As we would have the military officers totally dependent on you so we shall only express that we think the charge of rupees 500-0-0 a month exorbitant as the Company's usual allowance would have been sufficient.

45 Looking upon the Chittagong province to have peculiar advantages arising from a great extent of sea coast from being so detached from the other Bengal provinces, and having such strong natural barriers, we therefore recommend it to be a favourite object of your attention and that you establish its future prosperity on the most durable foundation. Mr Verelst his state of the revenues in 1761 tracing them from the *assul jumma* or original rent through all its progressions is very methodical and judicious, and we hope by his endeavours to discover other sources which should properly fall into the publick revenue. Of this kind is the inheritance of the property of persons dying without heirs beyond a certain degree which law we understand to be in force under the country government but not knowing what limitation it is subject to we give this hint for your enquiry.

46. Although the increase of the revenue of this province is very agreeable to us, yet much remains to be done before we can be assured that we draw all the advantages of which it is capable and therefore direct you to cause an actual survey to be taken of the whole province, that we may know what is cultivated what waste what pays taxes, what free and how the whole is disposed of. And as nature has marked out such strong barriers it is not for our interest to break through them as in the case of the fruitless Meckley expedition.\* We expect you should give us your sentiments whether it is for the interest of the Company to continue the zemindars, or to have the rents collected by our servants as is practised in the Calcutta lands.

47 Though we forbid the building of a fort yet in the plan for the factory buildings you should have a view both to present defence and to what may be hereafter done, if we should be inclined to enlarge this plan but no further expence is to be incurred without our express permission.

48. From the cheapness of provisions we should judge manufactures may be carried on to great advantage therefore our servants in this province should pay particular attention to the general instruction we have given to turn the channel of our investment so much as can be into our own provinces and as the articles provided for the Company's investment bear a small proportion to the whole trade so you must take care to levy such duties as the trade will afford. From your accounts we cannot discover that any duties whatever have been levied on exports or imports which we think a very great inattention to our interest and direct that you immediately establish such customs as you think the trade will bear that you be very full in your information on this subject that we may come to a thorough knowledge of all the trade carried on there and that we may see we have justice done us in collecting the duties thereon and for this purpose you must send us an account of the annual exports and imports of this province which must make a number in your packet.

49 Mr Plaisted<sup>1</sup> in his second survey to the southward of Chittagong discovered a harbour for shipping of which he sent a plan and in his letter of the 1st June 1761 he writes he was to make another survey but from that time no mention is made of it. We would have the survey made as correct

as possible and direct you to send us all the information you can and your opinion of the use to be made of it, and here we must caution you to keep this knowledge of the Chittagong River<sup>5</sup> as confined as you can, that foreign nations may not be acquainted with it

50 Notwithstanding we forbid the construction of docks and the establishment of a marine yard on the Company's account from an apprehension that the advantages would not be adequate to the expence, yet we would have private undertakings of the kind encouraged as we would promote every thing that can tend to the advantage of the trade of the country, and hereafter when the expected increase of the revenue may have taken place, such undertakings may possibly be thought of

51 As the cutcherry charges form a very considerable deduction from the revenue, we expect you send us the particulars of this disbursement

52 We are well pleased with the increase of the revenues of the province of Midnapore, but are anxious to know the result of your deliberations on Mr Anselm Beaumont's proposal to abolish the zemindars and collect the revenues by our own servants We know not what particular local circumstances may attend each province, but it is our general idea, that whenever you think you have nearly ascertained the value of the lands, it will be for the advantage of the Company to farm them out to substantial men What further improvements can be made must arise from the cultivation of waste lands, and the increase of the manufacture of each province We are not satisfied with the accounts received from this province, they are by no means so full and satisfactory as those of Burdwan

53 There is no account even of the zemindars who hold the lands The servants at Midnapore have or ought to have regular books wherein each zemindar is debited for his agreement, credited for what paid, and the balance stated at the close of the year, but no such account appears to have been transmitted to the Presidency, and without it we do not see how they could form a true judgment of the value of the province and the conduct of our servants

54 Much remains yet to be done before we can be convinced that we receive the full value of the revenues of this province, therefore we direct you to be very full in your information on this subject, and you must send us a plan of the Bengal frontier towards Orissa, with your opinion of the best means of preventing invasions on that side

55 We make the same objections to the two and an half per cent taken by our servants from the zemindary of this province as to what taken by our servants at Burdwan We understand no distinction of allowances by us, or by the Rajah, and will also have all that our servants have received in this province as well as at Burdwan, paid into our treasury, and they are to receive for the time past on the footing of the Malda servants namely rupees 2000 per annum to the Chief, at which rate you are to regulate it in future, and if they refuse to comply with this order, you are to dismiss them our service and to send them home to answer for their conduct to us

56 We have already approved of the method you took to ascertain the value of the Calcutta lands You write us it has increased the revenue, but

we cannot trace the annual produce for want of a general statement which may present the several *purgunnahs* under one view. Thus you must therefore send us as also a general statement of the revenues of every province made up at the annual *poonah* which may exhibit at one view the receipts, disbursements and clear revenue paid into the treasury which should make a number in your packet.

57 In your letter of the 21st January 1762 paragraph 8 you mentioned an agreement proposed for letting the Corry Jury lands for a long term at a small rent to encourage the cultivation of them. This plan seems afterwards set aside, but we do not find you have substituted any other measure in lieu thereof. The object is an important one, and if you have not already done it we direct you seriously to attend to the improvement of these lands and to inform us minutely of every step you take therein.

58 We shall suspend our judgment of the plan proposed by the Assay Master for regulating the mint until we receive your further opinion on that subject. We observe that he proposes to refine the silver after the European manner by which he assures that a saving will be made to the merchant of one per cent. if so that method is undoubtedly to be preferred but thus as well as some other alterations proposed must be left to the proofs which time may produce. It does not appear what the charge of refining amounts to nor what the charge of allay [alloy] in cases where the silver is finer than the proposed standard a very particular account of which should have been given and you must not fail to do so in your next advices, as well as the duties on coinage and all other charges attending a parcel of bullion brought to the mint to be coined from the time it enters the mint as bullion until it be issued as specie.

59 In the second article of the mint regulations a method is proposed for registering the bullion in the assay office when brought to be coined and a time is limited for issuing it in coin. To this article it is proper to add that those who bring and register their bullion first shall have their coin delivered first and that no other preference be given.

60 It is of great importance that the coins be carefully kept up to their proper standard and as there is no other check in this very essential part of the trust reposed in the Assay and Mint Master but the trial which the samples or musters of coins sent over to us undergo at the Tower\* it is therefore very obvious that unless those samples be very faithfully and impartially taken a fair judgment cannot be made. You should therefore make this an object of your attention and establish some method that may answer the proposed end. The best which occurs to us is that (not trusting to inferiors) you do yourselves at unstated times take indiscriminately from any parcel of rupees coined in the course of the year the samples to be sent home.

61 In considering this subject we have been led to some thoughts on the state of the specie in Bengal and what strikes us the most is the very injurious custom of reducing annually the *batta* of a *nicka* rupee until it sinks to a certain value considerably less than that at which it issues from the mint. Whatever may have given rise and continuance to this usage it certainly must be productive of great inconvenience to trade in general, and consequently

you would do well if by your influence in the government of the province, you could procure the total abolition of that custom or some better regulation in that respect We are not perhaps sufficiently masters of the subject to see all the difficulties and, it may be, impropriety of such an attempt, and therefore we do not enjoin it otherwise than an object worthy of your attention, but whether you take any steps to that end or not, we would have you give us your thoughts on the subject very fully, explaining to us the cause of such an annual decrease in value, and whether any and what remedy can be best applied

62 It appears by your treasury books that *sicca* rupees thus reduced in value are sometimes recoined in our mint, which is attended (as you say in your letter of the 12th November 1761) with a charge of two and a quarter per cent, but it does not appear whether it is the constant practice to do so, you will therefore explain this to us, in the mean time we must suppose it is, for since the difference in value between *sunnauts* and *siccas* is as we understand generally, greater than that, all *sunnauts* which come into our treasury (and if our revenues be paid chiefly in that specie, the sum must be considerable) should be recoined and issued as *siccas* The profit arising on the *sunnauts* you recoin and on some other articles is, we remark, in your treasury books carried every month to profit and loss, which is an improper entry The head of profit and loss should be used only for the close of annual accounts, or for such accidental entries as are not worth the trouble of a new head, not for a regular monthly entry In the case before us, the head of *batta* seems a proper one, that or any other that may appear to you more applicable to the subject must therefore be opened on your books and cleared at their close by profit and loss We must here also take notice of the custom of using India words in your books, whereby many articles are rendered unintelligible to us You must in future avoid that practice, or whenever you find it more convenient to use them, always add in English their signification in a parenthesis

*Sixthly and seventhly of covenant and military servants and accounts*

63 We have considered the difficulties you were under with respect to Mr Johnstone's returning to his station at Burdwan, and direct in future, when the post to be filled by any person restored to our service is not expressed in our orders from hence, that in such case the servant so restored is to remain in his rank at the Presidency and wait until some post suitable to it falls vacant

Lre from 26th  
Novr 1764 Paras 42  
& 3

64 Whenever you think it really necessary to have a Resident at the Durbar, we direct you to choose him, not by seniority in the service, but by an established character for integrity, abilities and a knowledge of the country language We understand he is to be the sole agent for transacting all business at the Durbar, and direct the copy of his correspondence with the Nabob or his officers, with the Presidency and chiefs of the subordinates, officers of the army or civil servants on publick affairs, be transmitted to us annually in duplicate We think his allowance extremely high as also that of his assistants, which you are therefore to reconsider, and as we leave the nomination of this

officer to you it behoves you to have a constant eye to his behaviour as we shall deem you in a particular manner responsible to us for his conduct.

65 We are much satisfied with Mr Barwell's assiduity in bringing up the General Books but shall continue to think you remiss in this important duty till you send us the books brought up to the April preceding the dispatch of the ships. We shall send you our remarks on those come home by a future conveyance.

66. We are very sensible of Mr Barwell's merit and we shall leave it to you to give him all the encouragement our service will consistently admit of. The like we would have done with respect to Mr John Graham who has behaved so much to your satisfaction during the time he acted in the capacity of Secretary

Lre. from 6th Fe  
bry 1765 paras 24  
& 5

67 Although the establishing relays between your Presidency and the Coast of Choromandel may be a necessary measure yet we think the allowance of six rupees a day each for three residents is a very heavy expence and we direct you to let us know why the Company's servants were not employed on these stations which we expect to be done, unless you give us very good reasons to the contrary

68. As in the course of our late inspection of the letters and books of Consultations from your Presidency we find several matters of consequence mentioned in the latter without the least notice being taken thereof in the former we cannot avoid making this observation upon so great an inattention. And we hereby direct that in future you be particularly careful that every circumstance of a material nature which appears either in your General or Separate Consultations be likewise taken up in a proper manner in your General Letters.

69 In the operations of the two last campaigns, it occurs to remark that great and important affairs either of alliance possession of country or collection of revenues have fallen under the management of the commanding officer but are branches of our civil interest. We think it necessary and direct that the commanding officer of the army shall always be accompanied by a civil servant in the character of a field deputy. You will readily perceive from these outlines what it is we intend. We expect the instruction you shall give will be conformable thereto. This is not meant to take place when Lord Clive takes the field because we place the utmost confidence in him both in his civil and military capacity

70 At the same time that we are pleased to see you have entered into an examination of the military field expences and made several regulations which we approve we cannot but express our surprize that this had not been done before which would have proved a great saving

71 We by no means approve of the allowance of four thousand rupees per month for the field expences of the Commander in Chief. The example you took of the allowance made to Colonel Coote never had our approbation and we therefore direct that you conform as near as you can to the Fort St. George establishment herein which is for the table and other field expences of the Commander in Chief during his being in the field ten pagodas per diem and twenty five to

(ms. 9th July  
1765)

thirty coolies for his baggage We do not mean to limit the expence when Lord Clive takes the field as Commander in Chief, having left in general terms that his Lordship is to be allowed his field expences

72 We are surprized at the excess of 600 bullocks in one month's artillery charge, and that you should have passed it so slightly over We apprehend the fault lay in the Commissary's neglect to controul the contractor and reporting the fraud to you as soon as he discovered it We direct you to have a retrospect thereto and to obtain redress for such a gross imposition We remark in your Consultation 31st May 1764, the censure you passed on Mr Parker Hatley and for that and his other behaviour during the time he was contractor to the army, we order you to dismiss him our service, but before he embarks, bring him to a strict account and make him make good whatever frauds or abuse he may have committed in his contracts with the Company But should he have left your settlement before this order arrives, you are to transmit to us full and particular accounts of his said transactions, together with every necessary information all authenticated in such a manner, that we may be fully enabled to proceed against him here in a legal way, to recover the amount of what it shall appear he has defrauded the Company of

73 We hope Lord Clive with your assistance effected the reduction of the double *batta* and that you will model the whole military charges in such a manner, that we may at one view see what it costs to put the whole army or any part thereof in motion Although these few reflections have occurred on looking over the Commissary's books, yet we rely on you to make the reduction of our ruinous military expences one of the chief objects of your attention

74 We remark with pleasure that you were unanimous in your opinion for putting Major Champion<sup>r</sup> under the command of the Chief of Midnapore ,  
 Lre from 6th Febry 1765 Para 33 the supreme power being invested in our President and Council, they are to delegate their authority to whom they think fit , they are the proper judges who they are to trust with it, and if they think fit to put a military officer, be his rank what it will, under the orders of a civil servant, the military officer must pay the same regard to the orders of such civil servant, as he would to those of the Governor and Council, and here we think proper to remark on the abuse of that power by our late President and Council in calling Mr Tinker to the Board, when affairs no way relative to the navy were to be debated, particularly in permitting him to sign your Consultations and the letter to Major Carnac on his conduct  
 Cons 24th May 1764

75 You did very well to give Captain Pemble a Major's commission on the Bengal establishment to prevent his being superseded by junior officers, but when he returns to Bombay, he is not to rank according to that brevet, but to his rank on that establishment  
 Lre from 26th Nover 1764 Pa 55

76 We left it last year to you to settle Captain Jennings's request as much to his satisfaction as possible, which we doubt not you have complied with

77 The difficulties, which have arisen with respect to the ranks of Lieutenant Thoms and the officers we sent out in the *Success* and other ships of the same season, as mentioned in your letter of the 26th November 1764, paragraphs 87 and 88, might have been easily obviated if a due attention



had been paid to the spirit and meaning of our directions. Lieutenant Tullie's being promoted by you to a lieutenancy before our orders for that purpose arrived we find has been the occasion of this misunderstanding, for we meant no more than that if Mr Tullie was an Ensign at the time when the first of these officers arrived he should take rank of them but not that they should supersede any lieutenants who should have been actually appointed by you before the arrival of the first of them they are therefore to be ranked upon your military list accordingly

78. An officer of His Majesty's customs at Portsmouth having stopped nineteen bulkes of diamonds in July last as they were attempted to be run from His Majesty's ship the *Medway* twelve bulkes of which were shipped by Messrs. Palk Morse and Hollond six by Samuel Moses and one by Daniel De Castro the greater part whereof it appeared by the bills of lading were to be delivered at Portsmouth particularly those shipped by Messrs. Palk Morse and Hollond, which said diamonds being shipped at Fort St. George without being registered or our receiving any advices thereof from our President and Council, they became a forfeiture to the Company as unlicenced trade and were seized accordingly on their behalf Mr Palk's conduct herein as President, being by us unanimously deemed a direct breach of orders and covenants and prejudicial to the Company with respect to their duties he has been severely censured and reprimanded for his said misconduct.

79 As have also John Hollond one of our writers Nicholas Morse Samuel Moses and Daniel De Castro free merchants the first named for having in the said transaction been guilty of a breach of orders and his covenants, and the other three of a breach of the covenants they entered into as free merchants.

80 Although we might instantly have proceeded to the condemnation of the said diamonds as having been illicitly imported yet when we considered that by such a step we should deprive innocent men of their property which the misconduct of President Palk had subjected to the penalties of the law which are not only a forfeiture of the diamonds themselves but moreover double the value we have thought proper to restore them to the proprietors thereof upon their payments however of the customary duties with all charges and satisfying the officer who made the seizure.

81 In order the more effectually to deter any person or persons being guilty of such transactions in future we have now enforced the orders we sent to Fort St. George on the 13th March 1761 and which being the same as were contained in our General Letter to you under the same date the following orders are applicable to both Presidencies and must be strictly observed by you accordingly &c

82 We were very explicit in the last orders we gave you in our General Letter of the 13th of March 1761 with respect to the registering all diamonds to be laden on any ship or vessel for Europe but as the said orders have been in the instances before us so greatly neglected and disobeyed we think it proper here to enforce them by directing that you are to give notice in the most publick manner before the dispatch or departure for Europe of any ship or vessel belonging to His Majesty or in the service of the Company that every

person or persons who intend to send any diamonds, gems or precious stones by such conveyances, do regularly and truly register them with you, which register is to be transmitted to us by such ship, vessel or man of war, together with the necessary advices in your General Letter relating thereto. And we do hereby declare it to you as our firm resolution and do accordingly positively direct that if any of our servants of what rank or station soever, shall after the receipt hereof, be guilty of a disobedience of these orders, they be immediately dismissed the service and sent to England by the first conveyances that offer. And if free merchants or any other person or persons whatsoever residing under the Company's protection shall be guilty of a breach of them, such protection is immediately to be withdrawn, and such person or persons are in like manner to be sent to England by the first conveyances, and if any of the black merchants or natives shall be guilty of a breach of these orders, the Company's protection is likewise to be withdrawn from them and they be immediately sent out of the Company's bounds. We declare these to be standing orders and you are not only to enter them in the book kept for that purpose but you are likewise to make them known in as effectual a manner as possible by fixing them up at the usual publick and other proper places and giving such other informations that no person in any part of your Presidency may have it in his power to plead ignorance of them.

83 Having at different periods laid before His Majesty's Ministers a general account of the expences defrayed by the Company for the subsistence of French prisoners of war at our several settlements in India and incident charges, it has lately been signified to us by the Secretary of State that the French India Company required the particulars of all such expences and that the same should be accompanied with bills, estimates and receipts or other authentick vouchers or attested copies thereof.

84 In consequence of this we have delivered to Mr Secretary Conway, a collective account of all the Company's disbursements for the maintenance of French prisoners to the time of the latest advices, in as full and particular a manner as could be done from the accounts we have received from our several Presidencies, the whole amounting to £2,60,000.

85 The disbursements of your Presidency were of course extracted from the accounts you have sent us, but we are sorry to observe that your *Buxey's* account (received per *Vansittart*) which extends to January 1765 and amounts to current rupees 1,74,146-2-, comprehending great part of your charges, consists chiefly of general articles with references to particulars which have not been sent.

86 This irregularity has involved us in difficulties which it is incumbent on you to remove. You must therefore not fail to supply us by the first conveyance with a complete account in which all particulars shall be inserted and the same must be carefully examined and authenticated in the best manner possible, which account must also be continued to the time of your dispatches.

87 And as you are now sufficiently apprized of the expediency of our being furnished with vouchers for such charges, you must at the same time transmit to us attested copies of all bills, estimates and receipts or other authentick vouchers which you may be possessed of or can obtain, whereby we may be enabled to support the several articles of your account.

88. We heartily wish for the sake of justice for the good of the Company and for the relief of ourselves, that we might depend on you our President and Council for the true characters of our servants in respect to integrity ability and assiduity for without some such competent guide, we may often be led into error and suffer some to rise to stations for which they are unfit, and you are hereby directed to send us the proper informations from time to time accordingly and as this is more particularly necessary with respect to the taking into Council those persons who stand next in turn upon the list, you are to be extremely careful therefore not to admit any one into Council unless you are fully satisfied that his abilities, integrity circumstance and good character in general render him fit for so important a station, and whatever person shall be taken by you into Council to continue as such provisionally until you receive our approbation.

We are,

Your loving friends,

Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo. Dudley /  
Thos. Rous / Cha. Cutts / Henry Savage /  
Fredk. Pigou / J. Purling / John Harri-  
son / Rob. Jones / Jos. Du Pré / Edwd.  
Wheler / John Stephenson / Hen. Had-  
ley / John Roberts / Charles Chambers /  
Thos. Saunders / George Cuming / E.  
H. Cruttenden / Luke Sraffton / Wm.  
Webber

London

24th December 1765

[Per Lioness via Madras]

16

## LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1765

*Structures against the Council for being aggressors in the war and for exorbitant demand of restitution money of 53 lakhs from Mir Jafar—approve the measures for conducting the war till battle of Buxar—opinion regarding the demand for Ghazipur—no justification for the demand of army and navy for a portion of donation money—forbid future stipulations by treaty or otherwise for any donation or gratification—views on inland trade—forbid the practice of barjat*

**OUR** President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

I In our letter by the ships *Falmouth* and *Harcourt* dated the 26th April last we expressed our astonishment at the report then current that forty lacks had been demanded for private restitution and ordered you to detain whatever was paid on that account We see but too much reason to confirm that order for it appears to us a most flagrant abuse of our power to the oppression of the Nabob and his country

2 Although it was thought fit to confirm the treaty made with Jaffir Aly Khan in 1757 because the capture of the settlement had involved the inhabitants in one general ruin, and without such a restitution it must have sunk under the calamity, or it would have been the work of many years to restore it to a flourishing condition, no such circumstances existed in the present case, yourselves aggressors in the war, and in a great measure brought on by illicit trade, of which we shall give our sentiments in the sequel We fear too this demand will be found for the most part an indemnification for the losses sustained in that very trade, which we shall come to the knowledge of when we receive the accounts laid before the Commissioners, and of which we last year directed you to transmit us a copy Therefore we repeat our orders to detain all sums paid on that account, assuring you we shall deem you responsible should any sum have been issued out on this account after the receipt of our orders of last year Our displeasure at this proceeding is infinitely aggravated by the time and manner in which the demand was made Your first demand was for twenty lacks for which you were content to demand an assignment You soon after increased the demand to forty lacks, to which the Nabob is compelled to consent on the condition it shall stop there You then increased the demand to fifty three lacks, to which exorbitant sum it is raised by flinging in your outstanding debts, force the Nabob to make part payment, and press him with the utmost severity for further payment, at the very period when the Company's affairs are in the most critical situation, before the battle of Buxar decided whether we should not be extirpated the country, and at the same time the Company are distressed for money to carry on the war and the investment, and borrowing the very money paid by the Nabob to our servants at an interest of 8 per cent

3 We find by your Consultation of the 24th September, you were in actual possession of claims for restitution to the amount of forty seven lacks and a half of rupees We cannot therefore but be astonished, that you did not send us copies thereof, and by your not doing it, it seems as if it was industriously intended to keep us in the dark, both with respect to the names of the claimants, and the particulars of their respective demands

4 By our letter of the 26th April last, we expressed our approbation of Major Carnac's conduct as far as the lights we then had would permit us to judge of it We see with pleasure you have since thought him vindicated, except in neglecting to give you regular information of his proceedings, in which we concur in opinion, and must add, that he often failed in that deference which he owed you, and on many occasions carried his idea of military power too high, particularly in the dissent he entered against putting Major Champion under the orders of the Chief and Council of Midnapore, of which we have given you our sentiments in the general advices

5 The war being begun against Cossim Aly Khan, we approve the measures you took in conducting it till the battle of Buxar But the demand of the Gauzepoor country, the undertaking to conquer Souja Dowla's country for the King, and the treaty you have made with him<sup>1</sup>, we shall give our opinion of separately The demand you made of having Cossim Aly Khan, Sombre,<sup>2</sup> and the deserters delivered up to you, was consistent with the objects

of the war and your success entitled you to add reparation for the expences of the war but to demand the Gauzepoor country a frontier province surrounded with warlike people, we conceive was a measure by no means adequate to the end proposed, and absolutely a contradiction to our repeated directions not to extend our possessions. The anxiety we feel on this occasion is not to be compared to what we suffer at the engagement you have entered into with the King to conquer Souja Dowla's country for him. Had you pushed on after the battle of Buxar the force of your arms must soon have brought Souja Dowla to consent to your terms. But giving away his country rendered him desperate. In his conference with Major Munro he plainly tells you he can expect no assistance till you have conquered the country and then he shall have friends enough and the issue as far as your advices reach is such as we imagined you are entangled by your connections with him seem to doubt whether you can accept even your own terms from Souja Dowla, and in the mean time your new ally so far from a support is even to be supported in the expences of his household and Nudjeef Cawn the only man the King pretended to a connection with by your last advices is marching against you.

6 At the time of our dispatches under date of the 26th April we had it only by report that a donation has been made by the Nabob to the army and navy of which the first mention on your Consultations is on the 13th February 1764 on occasion of the mutiny in the army which mutiny is all that gives us any notice of any such transaction indeed on the 2nd July 1764 it is said the Company are to make it good if not paid by the Nabob nor is there to this time any thing that can lead us to a knowledge of the amount of such donation but by the donation exacted for the navy which is to be half that to the army and being mentioned to be twelve lacks and a half points out to us that the donation to the army was twenty five lacks. When we consider the circumstances of the Nabob and the Company at the period the demand was made for the army we cannot consider this other than an act of the most violent oppression. The example of the fifty lacks given by Mir Jaffir on the revolution in his favour in 1757 will by no means justify this. We were then at open war with the Nabob of the country. If we were victorious the army might pretend to the plunder of the capital which would have defeated the end. The treasury was supposed to be very rich and the Nabob in condition to afford it. In the present case no such circumstances existed you was [sic] but to restore the same man you had before deposed and you could expect only an empty treasury a country involved in war and the Company struggling under every difficulty. We do not mean to take from the merit of the army. The conduct of the officers and men till the mutiny would have been an honour to any service but let it be observed no service in the world is gratified equal to ours by the great advantages that attend actual service from the *batta* and other indulgences allowed them. There was no just pretension to any such demand and the experience you had of the fatal effects of the donation given on the former occasion which destroyed more than half the army by the excesses it led them to and the remissness of discipline and spirit of mutiny which ensued should have warned you of the danger of such gratification. But yet flagrant as the conduct of those who demanded or countenanced this measure appears to us every circumstance is heightened in the demand of twelve lacks and a half for the navy whose ships did no service but that of laying by the walls and of their men only a

small detachment did duty with the artillery There is such a want of humanity in the distresses thus wantonly heaped on the Nabob, that your conduct will be for ever a stain on the nation, and is enough to raise up enemies to us in every part of Indostan Your country correspondence is all that flings any light on this transaction The Nabob in his letter of the 12th July 1764 in enumerating the sums he has to pay, mentions "besides a Donation to the Sea Forces under the Command of the Commodore concerning which you have several times wrote to me" Yet no mention of this demand appears in the copies of any of your letters in the country correspondence prior thereto, the evident result is, that the copies sent home are unfaithful registers In the margin of the letter book where the above is entered, there is the following memorandum "This Letter is directed to the Governour and Council, but the Contents of it are addressed to the Governour only", which added to the beforementioned circumstance of the suppression of every thing relative to the demand for the navy, implies as if this was the act of the Governour alone, but that is no vindication to the Council, who ought on this discovery to have remonstrated against the measure and not have joined in it The date of this letter points out that the demand must have been made during the heighth of the war, and the date of the *kistbundee* before the battle of Buxar proves, that it had your sanction under the same situation of public affairs, or else, all mention of it was purposely omitted till the 15th November, for the *kistbundee* being dated the 8th October must, or ought to have been, laid before the Council long before the 15th November

7 From the obscure manner in which this whole transaction has been carried on, we cannot discern whether any thing has ever been paid on this account We direct you therefore to send us such a full and explicit account of every particular, that we may not be at a loss to form a true judgment of, and take the proper measures upon so injurious a transaction

8 The last article under this head is the gift of the inhabitants of Bennaris to protect them from plunder Had there been no prior donation, this might have been deemed a fair and proper opportunity of rewarding the army for their services, but after so large a gift as 25 lacks, we think every contribution ought to have been raised for the benefit of the Nabob or the Company, and it affords us the melancholy prospect of seeing all the contributions raised on the enemy divided as plunder to the troops, though you judge in the 13th paragraph of your letter of the 26th November that the Company's expences and losses in the war, exceed the sum paid by the Nabob, notwithstanding the amount then paid is more by five lacks than the sum stipulated in the treaty

9 To prevent this dishonorable practice of stipulating for services that are but the duties of a soldier's profession, we positively forbid all future stipulations by treaty or otherwise, with any of the country powers, for any donation or gratification for services to be performed, and for any donation or gratification which any country power may think fit to make for services effected, they must be by permission of the Governour and Council, as stipulated by the covenants entered, or to be entered into by our civil and military servants in consequence of our orders in our letter of the 1st June 1764

10 Your deliberations on the inland trade have laid open to us a scene of most cruel oppression, and which is indeed exhibited at one view of the

13th article of the Nabob's complaints mentioned thus in your Consultation of the 17th October 1764 "The Poor of this Country who used always to deal in Salt, Beetle Nutt and Tobacco are now deprived of their daily Bread by the Trade of the Europeans, whereby no kind of advantage accrues to the Company and the Government's Revenues are greatly injured" We shall for the present observe to you that every one of our servants concerned in this trade has been guilty of a breach of his covenants and a disobedience to our orders. In your Consultation of the 3d May we find among the various extortionate practices, the most extraordinary one of *burjaut*, or forcing the natives to buy goods beyond the market price which you there acknowledge to have been frequently practiced.

11 In your resolution to prevent this practice you determine to forbid it but with such Care and discretion as not to affect the Company's Investment as you do not mean to invalidate the Right derived to the Company from their Phurmaund which they have always held over their Weavers" As the Company are known to purchase their investment by ready money only we require a full explanation how this can affect them or how it ever could have been practiced in the purchase of their investment which the latter part of Mr Johnstone's minute entered on Consultation the 21st July 1764 insinuates, for it would almost justify a suspicion that the goods of our servants have been put off to the weavers in part payment of the Company's Investment, therefore we direct you to make a rigid scrutiny into this affair that we may know if any of our servants or those employed under them have been guilty of such a breach of trust that their names and all the circumstances may be known to us.

12 We also order you to give us the particular instances which have confirmed you in your opinion that the *burjaut* has been practiced that we may know whose agents they were, and whether the agents who practiced it were countenanced and protected in it by their masters.

13 Mr Johnstone's minute on Consultation the 21st July 1764 cannot escape our notice wherein he says, "The support of these and our other Privileges in their full extent against the Usurpations of the late Nabob engaged us in this unhappy War and after so many valuable Lives lost in the defence of them I shall ever be against parting with them or hazarding the Loss of them without greater and better cause than has yet appeared, and till after We have found by Experience that all other Remedies are in vain"

14 As the privileges here meant principally relate to the unwarranted inland trade in which our own servants have been so generally concerned greatly to the prejudice of the Company by involving their affairs in distresses and difficulties and manifestly injurious to the country government of which every one of you cannot but be fully sensible we say we cannot avoid taking notice of the said opinion as by it Mr Johnstone seems to persevere in all events to prefer the private interest of individuals to the general good, so far as respects the said inland trade. If Mr Johnstone continues in these sentiments, as from the general tenor of his conduct we have but too much reason to apprehend he cannot but be looked upon as a dangerous servant therefore if he or any other person shall persist in carrying on a trade which as before observed has been attended with so many bad consequences we would have him or them dismissed the Company's service

15 We shall say nothing further at present on the inland trade, till that important subject shall have been taken up by Lord Clive and the gentlemen of the Select Committee, only to observe, that the regulations proposed in Consultation the 17th October 1764 of confining the trade of our servants in the article of salt to the capital cities of Patna, Dacca and Moorshedabad on paying the Nabob  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent, is a manifest disobedience of our orders of the 8th February then under your deliberation, which positively forbid all trade in salt, beetle nutt and tobacco Nor does it by any means obviate the Nabob's objections arising from the distress of the poor and the injury to his revenues, for if you pay only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent and the country people 20, or perhaps 40 per cent it is as much a monopoly as ever

16 For other licenced trade we think it necessary to establish, that all trade to be carried on within the provinces where factories are established, shall be carried on by our servants at such factories, and their agents only, who shall transact the business of our other servants on receiving the established commission, and on any refusal to accept with commission, or any tendency to monopolize, the servants of Calcutta, or other parts, are at liberty to send their own black *gomastahs* who are nevertheless to be accountable for their conduct to the Company's servants within whose jurisdiction they reside All districts not comprehended within the jurisdiction of each subordinate, shall be considered as within the jurisdiction of the Board of Calcutta, that no *dusticks* shall be given but for articles of import and export, as was formerly practiced, and you are to send us a list of whatever falls under this denomination

17 We are much concerned for the death of Jaffier Aly Cawn,<sup>3</sup> the more so for the critical juncture at which it happened while the army was at so great a distance The acknowledging his son<sup>4</sup> seems to have been the most prudent measure for preserving the tranquility of the country We wish this circumstance may have checked your views of conquering Souja Dowla's country for the King, a scheme which seems to exclude all possibility of peace, which alone can make our successes profitable, nor are we without our apprehensions, that you may be led on to support the King in his claims to the whole empire, for as you have by taking possession of the Gauzepoor country deviated from our repeated orders and departed from the spirit of our political views not to enlarge our conquests, so we know not what bounds can stop you when our orders proved ineffectual

18 The converting the temporary assignment of five lacks per month into a perpetual one, would be an enlargement of our revenue that would be flattering indeed, could we persuade ourselves it was consistent with that permanency which is our only object, and with the peace of the country, but unless we find you adopt some system which clearly marks out the barriers of the country government and ours, how they may aid and support each other and unite their strength against all foreign enemies, we shall deem those advantages merely temporary, and this height of prosperity subject to a fatal reverse, the first check our arms may meet with

19 As our servants have too readily laid hold of every opportunity to exact contributions or procure donations from the late Nabob, we hope nothing of this kind has happened upon the succession of his son the present Nabob,



however we would have you make the strictest enquiry therein and inform us of every circumstance if any such exactions have been made and in particular the names and conduct of all and every the several persons concerned, and oblige them to refund the amount thereof into the Company's cash for our further orders.

London  
24th December 1765  
[Per *Lioness*  
*Hampshire*  
*Cruttenden*  
and *Lord*  
*Camden*]

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo. Dudley /  
Thos. Rous / Cha. Cutts / Heny Sav  
age / Fredk. Pigou / J Purling / John  
Harrison / Rob Jones / John Stephen  
son / Hen. Hadley / John Roberts /  
Charles Chambers / Thos. Saunders /  
George Cuming / E. H Cruttenden /  
Luke Scrafton / Wm. Webber / Jos.  
DuPré / Edwd. Wheeler

17

## LETTER DATED 15 JANUARY 1766

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 Our last letters to you were dated the 24th ultimo and went to the Publick and Separate Departments by the ships *Lioness* and *Hampshire* to Fort St. George triplicates whereof you will receive by the ship *Cruttenden* now under dispatch the above ships sailed on their respective voyage the [ ]'

2. This ship as before advised you is directed to call at Madeira to take in the 125 pipes of wine intended for the use of our Presidency at Fort St. George. For the particulars of our consignments to you on this ship you are referred to the invoices and bills of lading enclosed

3 When the consignments to Fort St. George on this ship are landed, we have directed the President and Council to give the commander orders to make the best of his way to Bengal without loss of time.

4 With respect to the recruits on this ship we have acquainted our President and Council at Fort St. George they are either to be detained there or forwarded to you as the situation of our affairs may render absolutely and really necessary for the general interest of the Company

5 If it will be more for the Company's interest the President and Council at Fort St. George are to forward the said recruits and any number the ship can carry in addition to them to you in which case likewise we have directed them as beforementioned to dispatch the ship with the utmost expedition.

6. Notwithstanding what we have mentioned with respect to the consignment of this ship the *Cruttenden* if the President and Council at Fort St. George shall find it will be more for the Company's interest to dispatch her directly from that Presidency with a cargo of coast goods we have directed them to do

so accordingly, and in such case the consignments and recruits for you are to be forwarded by the first good conveyances that offer

7 The ship *Bute*, Capt Patrick Maitland, from Bengal having for considerable time been beating in the mouth of the Channel against contrary winds, with a sprung main mast and being short of provisions, put in at Crook Haven in Ireland the 1st instant, and this morning the purser brought to this house all the packets by the said ship

London,  
15th January 1766  
[Per *Cruttenden*,  
*Lord Camden*  
and *Pigot*]

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo Dudley /  
Thos Rous / Rob Jones / Cha Cutts /  
Heny Savage / Fredk Pigou / John  
Harrison / John Manship / Edwd  
Wheler / Hen Hadley / Thos Saun-  
ders / John Roberts / Charles Cham-  
bers / George Cuming / J Pardoe /  
Luke Scrafton / Jos DuPré / E H  
Cruttenden / John Stephenson / J  
Purling

## LETTER DATED 21 JANUARY 1766

*Condemn unlicensed trade—order search of the Cruttenden for unlicensed goods*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

Notwithstanding the great pains taken by the Court of Directors to prevent the commanders and officers of the Company's ships carrying out any unlicensed goods, the many examples which had been made of such persons who had been already detected and the vigorous measures they are still pursuing to the same purpose, we are well assured that this pernicious practice is still carrying on and in particular we are to acquaint you that in a day or two after the dispatch of the ships *Havannah*, *Hawke* and *Cruttenden*, we received certain information that a cutter named the *Good-Intent* sailed from the river, laden with bales and cases, part of the contents whereof consisted of one hundred and fifty pieces of cloth, five hundred stuffs and five hundred serges and that she was to follow the said ships in order to put on board one or other of them her said cargo after their departure from Gravesend but the *Cruttenden* is more particularly pointed at in the said information You are therefore hereby positively ordered and directed upon the arrival of the said ship at Bengal to make the strictest enquiry and search for the said goods and any others which may have been received on board without the Company's licence, in doing which you are to pursue

the directions laid down in the Court's letter of the 13th December last, examining however all the passengers in the most solemn manner upon oath and whatever private trade you find more than is licensed you are to seize it for the Company's use and advise us of every circumstance of your proceedings herein as directed in our said letter

London  
the 21st January 1766.

We are,  
Your loving friends,  
The Secret Committee of the United  
East India Company  
Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo Dudley /  
Thos. Rous / Heny Savage / Rob.  
Jones / Cha. Cutta.

19

## LETTER DATED 19 FEBRUARY 1766

*Illicit trade aboard Company's ships and country vessels—administration at the aurangs—transfer of Nawab Vazir's country to Shah Alam not justified—folly of the treaty with Shah Alam—disapprove the appointment of independent diwans—treaty with Najmud Daulah—prohibit inland trade in salt, betel nut and tobacco—Spencer's conduct in Bengal—disapprove concessions made to the Burdwan Raja in collection of revenue—case of Major Carnac declining to serve as Commander under Vansittart—concern over high mortality among the recruits on board the Anson—reduction in salaries of various officers—restitution account of 1757 to continue—request for more details about revenue—forbid the practice of sending to private persons accounts of Company's affairs in India—case of Radhacharan Mitra—opinion on Holwell and others receiving large sums from Mir Qasim for enthroning him*

**O**UR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1 By the *Cruttenden* which proceeded on her voyage from the *Downes* the 28th ultimo we transmitted our last advices of the 15th January last duplicate and triplicate whereof go in the packets by these ships the *Pigot* and *Lord Camden*. The *Lioness* and *Hampshire* with our letters to you dated the 24th December last by a very tedious passage from Gravesend were prevented sailing from the *Downes* until the 19th January following.

2 The *Lord Camden* is consigned to Fort William but we have thought proper to give the commander directions to proceed first and make the best of his way to Fort St. George to deliver our packet directed to the Governour and Council of that Presidency and also to afford them an opportunity of supplying themselves with all or any part of the military recruits on board that ship if they are more immediately wanted there than in Bengal. In doing which they are to use the utmost expedition and then they are to give Captain Smith orders to proceed without loss of time to Fort William.

3 Seventyfive pipes of vidonia wine for Fort St George being laden on the *Pigot*, we have consigned her to that settlement to land the same, but the other seventy five pipes with the principal part of her remaining cargo being for the use of your Presidency, they are to use the greatest expedition in unloading the said consignments and likewise landing such of the military recruits as they may have a real occasion for, and then they are to give the commander orders to make the best of his way to Bengal

4 But should it appear more for the interest of the Company to send the recruits by the said two ships, with any addition thereto, to Bengal, the President and Council of Fort St George are directed to do so accordingly, and in that case they are to dispatch the above ships with the utmost expedition Our meaning is that they are not to detain one ship for the other, but dispatch them separately as soon as they are respectively ready

5 Considering the great scarcity of provisions at St Helena, and the increased number of our returning ships which annually call there, we have recommended it to the commanders of the *Lord Camden* and *Pigot*, also to the commanders of all the Bombay ships of this year, if the season will admit of it, to put in at the Cape of Good Hope in their homeward bound voyage, and there recruit their victualling stores in such a manner, as to want but little at St Helena as it will be the means of relieving the garrison and inhabitants and prevent disappointment to themselves, but they are nevertheless in all events to call at St Helena, and we have informed the captains of the above ships, that if they carry some live stock thither on our account, to be paid for by the Governour and Council, it will be very agreeable to us, and in case of their getting a supply at the Cape as beforementioned, their stay at St. Helena is to be proportionably shortened You are to remind the said commanders of the above and all the former ships of this season, with any others which come under your management without the said orders are to have directions to act conformable thereto

6 In our letter of the 15th January you were acquainted with the *Bute's* arrival at Crookhaven, by that ship we received your advices of the 11th March 1765 from the General and Separate Departments, upon which we shall now make some observations

7 The late departure of the *Bute* from Bengal River occasioning a passage homewards of so great a length of time through the Bay as to oblige Captain Maitland to seek for provisions and water at the French Islands, from whence he had a very tedious voyage to St Helena, makes it necessary to remind you of our former recommendations to attend to a more early dispatch of our shipping by every seasonable preparation for it, and to the appointment of such for the latter consignment as from the circumstances of their situation may put a risque of passage out of the question, whereby the inconveniencies and disappointments we are otherwise subject to will more certainly be avoided

8 By the return of a large number of bales, which Captain Maitland alledges there was not tonnage for in the *Bute*, without the least description thereof in the invoice or by separate account of their species, marks and numbers, we have been put under very great difficulty in publishing the particulars of the cargo We should by no means have a second instance

## LETTER FROM COURT

of such neglect for remedy whereof give those in charge of the dispatch the strictest injunctions to transmit for our information a precise account, fully describing the particular sorts with the marks and numbers of all goods, that for want of room in the ships then under dispatch shall be hereafter returned from them.

9 The order for embarking the whole detachment of the 89th Regiment consisting of 109 officers and private men on the *Bute* with an immoderate quantity of baggage, and at such an unseasonable time of dispatch, when it might reasonably be supposed they would experience much distress, was a measure by no means to be approved. By shipping only half of that corps which Captain Maitland alleges he was obliged to return might have been received on board. His Majesty's service, our interest and the advantage of all parties justly weighed you would have been well justified had you refused a passage home to so many of them in this ship as it would have been much better on all accounts, as before observed to have detained those the ship could not so well receive for a future conveyance.

10 To what we have before observed with respect to the late dispatch of the *Bute* there appear these further disagreeable circumstances that the said ship was not only in imminent danger from the bad weather and consequently the Company's cargo actually on board, but the *Nancy* sloop foundered near her with about eighty bales and other goods which were intended as part of her cargo but could not be taken in as before observed on account of the large detachment of the King's troops.

11 In addition to the accounts we gave you in our last letters respecting illicit trade in the Company's outward bound ships, we are now to acquaint you that having received certain informations, that very large quantities of unlicensed goods had been put aboard the ships *Anson* and *London* in Madeira Road in their late voyages, upon their return we entered into a strict examination as to the truth thereof and although for some time the captains and officers absolutely denied their concern in or knowledge of any such unlicensed trade at last Captain Edward Lord Chick of the said ship *Anson* and Captain John Webb of the *London* owned to us, that they had taken in at Madeira the first named a large quantity of lead iron cannon shot and copper amounting to the sum of £1164 And the other great quantities of the like goods also cloth and long ells amounting together to £6859 10 At the same time they assured us that all the said articles belonged to them and that their officers were no way concerned therein. In order to prosecute our intentions for putting an end to these injurious practices we have thought it highly necessary to make an example of the said Captains Chick and Webb by dismissing them from the service and we have reprimanded in the severest manner the officers of those ships for concealing from us so long their knowledge of the said transactions excepting however the second mate of the *London* who voluntarily confessed the information against that ship With respect to the said captains and all others guilty of the illicit trade we have it at present under consideration to proceed against them at law for the penalties and forfeitures they are thereby liable to

12 Notwithstanding the vigorous measures we are pursuing sorry we are to observe that this pernicious practice is still carrying on for in a day or two

after the dispatch of the *Cruttenden* for the Coast and Bay, and the *Havannah* and *Hawke* for Fort Marlborough and China, information was given that a vessel laden with bales and cases was following the said ships in order to put aboard one or other of them her said cargo after their departure from Gravesend, but the *Cruttenden* was more particularly pointed at in the said information. In order to prevent a discovery of this transaction before the ships final departure from England, our Committee of Secrecy writ to you upon the occasion by the *Cruttenden* under date of the 21st January (as per copy of their letter in this packet) which letter we hereby ratify and confirm, and shall accordingly expect the orders and directions are strictly carried into execution respecting the *Cruttenden*, we have writ to the same purpose to the President and Council at Fort St George, as likewise to the President and Council of Fort Marlborough so far as regards the other two ships.

13 Our Secret Committee in their said letter directed that all the passengers should be examined in the most solemn manner upon oath. This examination upon oath is so proper a measure that it must be absolutely observed as a standing order upon the arrival of every ship notwithstanding the latitude implied in our letter of the 13th of December last, by the expression there used of it's being to be done *if you find it necessary*, and we add that by the word passengers, military officers are meant as well as all other passengers on board our ships. We further direct that all such examinations upon oath are to be transmitted to us in duplicate.

14 We have great reason to believe that in order to conceal the illicit goods carried out in our shipping the same is transhipped aboard country ships or vessels and from them landed at our settlements. We give you this hint that you may and we expect you do take such effectual measures for their discovery and seizure in the same manner as if such illicit trade is found aboard or landed directly from our own shipping. And as we mean all illicit trade should be detected not only in the ships bound directly from hence to your Presidency, but likewise those bound to our others, if therefore any such shall be found on board any country ship or ships, and upon a strict examination shall appear to belong to the commanders, officers or others of any of our ships which went from England, you are to proceed as before directed. And for our better information and satisfaction you are not only to transmit us a full account of what you may so discover, but you are likewise to send us exact and true accounts from time to time of all European goods landed from country ships. And further as this illicit trade we are satisfied cannot be carried on without the assistance or connivance of the Company's servants, or others under the Company's protection, we positively order and direct that if any of our servants are detached therein, let their stations be what they may, they be immediately dismissed the service and forthwith sent to England, if free merchants or others, our protection is to be withdrawn and they also be forthwith sent to England, and if natives or black people they are to be immediately banished from the Company's settlements.

15 The ships *Success*, *Fort William*, *Prince of Wales* and *Lord Anson*, which we hired to carry recruits for your Presidency, and sailed from hence in May 1764 touched at the Canary Islands or other places under the pretence

of refreshing the people on board but we are well assured the principal view was to take in illicit trade. You are therefore (if you have not already done it) to make a strict enquiry into the same, and particularly to examine upon oath the military officers and other passengers on the said ships and though it may be too late for seizing such illicit trade you are to send us in duplicate a full true and exact account of your proceedings on such enquiry together with the names of the persons concerned and if any of the commanders or others belonging to the said ship have been or shall be found to be the proprietors of such illicit trade they are to be forthwith sent to England.

16. We have permitted Mr Edmund Matthews late chief mate of the ship *Elizabeth*, which was burnt some time since in Canton River to proceed to India to get his living in the seafaring way As he is a man of character and ability in his profession we would have him employed in the marine service either at your Presidency or that of Fort St. George in such station wherein his services may be useful or wanted. If therefore he applies to you our said recommendation is to be duly observed. We have writ in like manner to our President and Council at Fort St. George.

17 Your supply to the West Coast of 200 chests of opium by the *Leopard* was commendable. We rely on your continuing to comply with the indents from thence according to our frequent recommendations, and as our Presidency there has advised a disappointment in the procuring timber for the works from Batavia unable to point out any other method we directed them to apply to you and Bombay for such as should be wanted You are therefore not to fail answering their demands for this article in particular by all opportunities.

18 Since sending you our list of investment to be made at your Presidency some remarks are made on the goods received by the *Devonshire* and *Lansittart* and some additional instructions have thereupon occurred which are communicated in a separate article herewith sent to which all due observance and obedience are to be had and paid

19 It is a very pleasing circumstance to us to see the *aurungs* are so well supplied and that we have a prospect of a full investment next year for our mercantile affairs ought always to be your first object.

20 We are much alarmed at the mention made of large outstanding debts at the *aurungs* you must send us a particular account thereof and as we fear it is a great and growing evil we expect you will take it into your most serious consideration how to prevent it The method you propose of sending covenant servants to the *aurungs* we cannot entirely approve from our apprehensions that very few of our junior servants will be found qualified for the discharge of such a trust which requires knowledge of the language of the manufacture and more prudence and discretion than is generally to be found at their years however some method must be found out to controul the *gomastahs* and put our investment on a proper footing

21 No success in carrying on the war against Sujah Dowla to give his

country to the King can justify the measure. Sujah Dowla's letter of the 3rd of January offering to withdraw his protection from Cossim Ally, to enter into friendship with you and join your army in pursuing him, was the opportunity that ought to have been embraced for putting an end to the war, that passed, your fatal engagements with the King were left to operate with their utmost force, all sight of the Company's interest was from that moment lost, and one error has plunged you into many more. The reply you make to the above offer of Sujah Dowla when you demand he shall put them to death, we cannot suppose seriously meant, for if the law of hospitality forbade his delivering them up, surely it forbade his murdering them.

22. In Consultation the 28th January, mention is made of some subsequent letters from Sujah Dowla to Major Fletcher which are but slightly mentioned therein, and appear nowhere entered on your correspondence, the only observation made on them is that you were too far engaged with the King to recede. In the last letter we in general terms condemned this treaty with the King, and flattered ourselves you would have seen the folly thereof, or Meer Jaffier's death or the arrival of Lord Clive would have prevented the execution of it, but being disappointed in our expectations, we now shall give you our sentiments at large. The dispossessing Sujah Dowla of his country is, we apprehend, breaking down the strongest barrier we could have had against the Afghans, Morattas and all the invaders of the empire who were checked from penetrating into the eastern provinces by a power so respectable as his was throughout Indostan. The raising the King on his ruins renders this danger still more striking, because all the northern powers are his natural enemies being attached to the vizier Gaz-o-din Cawn, and you own yourselves, in the reply to Mr Gray's minutes in Consultation the 20th February 1765 that though the title to the crown is contested, all parties seem to unite in opposing the claim of him you acknowledge king, and it is to be feared they will come down upon him before his strength is confirmed, and thus you may have drawn the wars that have so long distracted the northern countries to your own frontiers.

23 We have no opinion the King can possibly maintain himself without your utmost assistance, nor do we imagine Sujah Dowla is so reduced as not to make head again, and the result will be, we shall have a war to maintain six hundred miles from our own settlement, from the success of which no possible advantage can be derived, and one defeat may be the total loss of the provinces.

24 In your engagements with the King, we remark the stipulation for the charges of the war was unsettled, and we have much reason to apprehend the whole expense will be left on the Bengal Government.

25 We now come to consider the measures you took on the death of Jaffier Ally Cawn. We could have wished the succession had been left undetermined until Lord Clive's arrival, but if it was absolutely necessary to come to a sudden determination, and that some one must be immediately acknowledged *Soubah*, it was consistent with the faith we owed the father to adopt the succession he

Septe Consultations  
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designed, and the inexperience of the young *Soubah* considered you did right to appoint him a regent, but in the choice of Mahmud Reza Cawn<sup>1</sup> we think you passed too slightly over the charge urged against him of being so very deficient in accounting for the revenues of the province of which he had been Governour

Lres. from the  
Nabob and Mah-  
mud Reza Cawn.  
Recd. 30th Decr  
1764

26. The appointing of independant *duans* appears highly improper to us for it is intruding on the power of the regent, weakening his government and tending to anarchy nor can we conceive that any Englishman is master enough of the forms of government to undertake the dividing their departments without introducing confusion.

27 With respect to the treaty with Nazem-o-Dowla,<sup>2</sup> it is proper here to insert at length the 5th article which runs in these words "I do ratify and confirm to the English the Privilege granted them by their Phirmaund and several Husbulhookums of carrying on their Trade by means of their own Dustick free from all Duties, Taxes or Impositions in all Parts of the Country excepting in the Article of Salt on which a Duty of 2½ percent is to be levied on the Rowana or Houghly Market Price." This fifth article is totally repugnant to our orders contained in our General Letter by the *Kent* and *Lapwing* dated 1st June 1764 in which we not only expressed our abhorrence of an article in the treaty with Meer Jaffier literally corresponding with the present 5th article but in positive terms directed you in concert with the Nabob to form an equitable plan for carrying on the inland trade and transmit the same to us accompanied by such explanations and remarks as might enable us to give our sentiments and directions thereupon. We must remind you too that in our said General Letter we expressly directed that our orders in our letter of the 8th of February preceeding, which were to put a final and effectual end to the inland trade in salt beetle-nut and tobacco and in all other articles produced and consumed in the country should remain in force until an equitable and satisfactory plan could be formed and adopted as therefore there is not the least latitude given you for concluding any treaty whatsoever respecting this inland trade we must and do consider what you have done as an express breach and violation of our orders and as a determined resolution to sacrifice the interest of the Company and the peace of the country to lucrative and selfish views.

28 This unaccountable behaviour puts an end to all confidence in those who made this treaty and forces us to resolve on measures for the support of our authority and the preservation of the Company. We do therefore pronounce that every servant concerned in that trade stands guilty of a breach of his covenant with us and of our orders and in consequence of this resolution we positively direct that if that treaty is now subsisting you make a formal renunciation by some solemn act to be entered on your records of all right under the said treaty or otherwise to trade in salt beetle-nut and tobacco and that you transmit this renunciation of that part of the treaty in form to the Nabob in the Persian language whatever government may be established or whatever unforeseen circumstances may arise it is our resolution to prohibit and we do absolutely prohibit this trade of salt beetle-nut and tobacco and of all articles that are not for export and import accord

<sup>1</sup>"regulation." in another copy

ing to the spirit of the *phirmaund*, which does not in the least give any latitude whatsoever for carrying on such an inland trade, and moreover we shall deem every European concerned therein, directly or indirectly, guilty of a breach of his covenants, and direct that he be forthwith sent to England, that we may proceed against him accordingly, and every native who shall avail himself of our protection, to carry this trade on without paying all the duties due to the Government equally with the rest of the Nabob's subjects, shall forfeit that protection and be banished the settlement. And we direct that these resolutions be signified publickly throughout the settlement.

29 With respect to the 11th article of the treaty, which settles the restitution for private losses, we gave you our sentiments on that subject very fully in our letter of the 24th December, in which we remain confirmed, and our orders relative thereto stand in full force. We also continue in the same sentiments upon the donation to the navy, which we see is again taken up in the instructions to the Resident at the Durbar.

30 We repeat that we have lost all confidence in those servants which nothing can restore but a strict obedience to our orders and a more *scrupulous* attention to the Company's true interests. In the mean time and until their conduct shall have reinstated them in our good opinion, we must and do rely solely on our President Lord Clive and the Select Committee, whom we do hereby invest with all requisite powers for securing to the Company all sums paid on account of restitution till our orders are known. We further expect that they shall give us a clear investigation of the motives that influenced the Governour and Council to engage in a treaty with the King so repugnant to our true interest. That they shall examine into the reasons of the Burdwan lands being let so low as thirty two lacks, when by the accounts transmitted to us the collections exceeded fifty lacks. We also rely on the Committee to put a stop to the shameful demand made on the Nabob for the navy and supported by the Council to their great dishonour. And if any further corrupt or oppressive practices come to their knowledge, that they suspend those who shall appear guilty of them, and give us the fullest information thereof. And lastly we cannot avoid taking notice that the late President and Council neither acknowledged the receipt of the covenants relative to the receiving presents from the country government nor have they taken the least notice of them. We hope there is no further meaning in this neglect than the deferring it till Lord Clive's arrival, yet when we consider the total disregard of our most solemn orders on the most important subjects we know not where their disobedience will stop.

31 We have received two letters from Mr Spencer,<sup>3</sup> the first dated the 5th February 1765, the last the 14th March, copies of which we enclose for your information. As they both urge his own merit in so strong a manner we find ourselves obliged to give our sentiments on his conduct in Bengal.

32 He came down to that settlement with the general good opinion of the world, and with our approbation of his conduct during his service at Bombay, with this peculiar advantage, that he was free from all the embarrassments and the party spirit that prevailed in Bengal and had the plain path of the Company's interest before him. We shall therefore recapitulate the censure we have passed on that part of the administration of our affairs in

which he was concerned and which we take for granted he approved as no dissent is entered by him.

33 First, the very same letter that carried his appointment to the Government, carried our most positive orders to put a total and effectual stop to the trade of salt, beetlenut and tobacco which we expressed to be the source of the war and incompatible with the peace of the country and the interest of the Company yet in the Consultation 17th October wherein that order is taken into consideration he signs a resolution to carry on the trade of salt and beetlenut paying the Nabob on salt  $2\frac{1}{4}$  per cent, in direct breach of our orders and in the treaty with the new Nabob he stipulates for that right by an express article of the treaty

34 Although the treaty with Meer Jaffier Ally Cawn was entered into before Mr Spencer's arrival yet he gave his sanction to every part of it particularly that which stipulated restitution for losses which we make no doubt he knew to be mostly sustained in an illicit trade and preferring the interest of the servants to the honour of the Company countenanced the aggravating circumstances which accompanied that shameful prostitution of our authority in rising in the demand till by flinging in outstanding debts it was carried to the exorbitant sum of fifty three lacks and Mr Spencer though no way interested therein joined in the ungenerous proceedings by which Meer Jaffier's consent was extorted for the payment of these demands and in the treaty with the new Nabob makes it an act of his own by carefully stipulating for it therein and to our great astonishment we see his name to Consultation 15th November 1764 wherein he engages the authority of the Company to obtain the sum of twelve lacks and a half for the navy though as far as appears to us the demanding this sum was a private act of his predecessor unknown to him but so strongly adopted that we see he never loses sight of it but makes the recovery of it part of the instructions to the Resident at the Durbar on the accession of the new *Subah*

35 In the administration of our revenues he has so overlooked the accounts of the province of Burdwan that though it appears in them the Rajah collects fifty one lacks of rupees yet he has approved the agreement with the Rajah for thirty two lacks, which is even lower than the preceding year nor has he taken any notice of the sum of eighty thousand rupees applied to the use of our servants under the head of Charges Residency

36 In his letter of the 14th March he urges the general flourishing state of the Company's affairs as a matter of merit to himself in which we totally differ from him as he will learn from our sentiments in our letter of the 24th December and the present of which you will transmit him copies as far as relates to the administration of our affairs during his being of our Council in Bengal.

37 In the packet by the *Bute* you transmitted to us a copy of the treaty with the Nabob Nazim-o-Dowla which is attested by your Secretary Mr Majendie to be a true copy whereas it has neither date or the names of our Council who signed the treaty nor the Nabob's name to it which might have been very well added as it appears by your Consultations of the 6th March last that you then received it properly executed by the Nabob. You are to

inform Mr Majendie of his inattention and let him know he must be more careful for the future

38 The President and Council of Fort St George having employed Mr Dalrymple, one of our covenant servants on that establishment, to explore the Eastern Seas, and he having entered into some engagements with the Sultan of Xolo<sup>4</sup>, we have thought proper on account of many difficulties which have occurred, for the present to decline engaging the Company in a trade to that and other circumjacent islands, it would therefore without an express prohibition lie open to our servants and others trading under our protection. But as we have too much reason to apprehend that adventures of this kind may be undertaken by men of desperate fortunes, who by their imprudent and violent conduct are apt to enter into broils with the natives and leave impressions on their minds in no wise advantageous to the character of the nation, it is therefore our meaning and express orders that none be suffered to trade in those seas without a particular pass or licence for that purpose from you or one of our other Presidencies (to whom we now give the like caution) And if ever you should attempt or permit any such trade to be undertaken, we charge you to be extremely careful that such persons only be employed whose prudence you can rely on, that so the natives may not be alienated from us nor cause of jealousy be given to the Dutch or Spaniards

39 When we consider the very heavy expence that falls on the Company in building the New Fort, and that it is designed for the general benefit and security of the whole settlement, we think it but just and reasonable that the inhabitants should contribute a proportion of the expence. We are not sufficiently informed of the number of the inhabitants or their abilities to bear it, but give you this general observation, leaving it to you to consider the mode of doing it in the manner the most equitable and the least burthensome to the poorer class. And it is proper here to observe that a temporary assessment or contribution was voluntarily submitted to by the inhabitants in the year 1743 to defray the expence of a ditch made to secure the town of Calcutta against the invasions of the Morattas, which may be some guide to you in considering our said recommendation

40 Your intention of easing us of the large expence of the construction of a fort at Burdwan is satisfactory by agreeing according to plans presented on the means of effectually securing the factory from any sudden irruptions of a country force, though no estimate of the expence appears to have been laid before the Board. We persuade ourselves the matter could not have been determined unless the charges were previously well considered of, and this according to former orders is a rule never to be departed from, that expensive buildings may not be begun before their cost has been perfectly ascertained

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41 On this occasion you speak of plans having been laid before you, and in several former instances have done the like, which leads us to observe that a very slight respect has been shewn to the frequently repeated orders given for transmitting copies of all such as have been and shall be made and laid before the Board, which has only been done of the works at Calcutta and the survey of Chittagon[g], yet it has appeared to us that such have been in private custody here, particularly the survey of

the Calcutta lands. You will therefore be deemed highly culpable in for bearing to pay the attention due on this important point by furnishing us with copies of all draughts, plans and surveys in your custody made of our works, lands or of any other kind whatsoever

42. We are very much surprised at and highly disapprove the concessions you have made to the Burdwan Rajah. We gave you our sentiments on your conduct in collecting the revenues of that province in our letter of the 24th December last. We think this so glaring a neglect of our interest that we direct the Committee to make it an object of their enquiry what could have induced you to accept any such terms when the cutcherry receipts sent annually to the Board have made it evident that the Rajah collected more than fifty lacks on his tenants. What you write us of the *sallamy* to be paid on the birth of a son to the Rajah, is like many other things relative to the Burdwan province so obscure that we do not comprehend it and therefore require an explanation if it is meant that the *sallamy* is to be at the expence of the Company it will add to our dissatisfaction at your conduct relative to that province.

43 Since writing our letter of the 13th December 1765 wherein you were advised of our having appointed the twenty three young gentlemen therein named writers upon your establishment we have appointed another vizt William Wynne who is to take rank on the said list next below Samuel Michell, and as he had our permission to proceed in 1764 to Bengal covenants to be executed by him are enclosed in the packet by the Lord Camden.

44 Although we apprehend upon receiving the writers we have appointed this season in addition to the covenant servants at present standing on your list you will have a sufficient number of civil servants to carry on the business of the Presidency yet we would have you give us your sentiments thereon that we may either send more or withhold our hands for some time and in giving such information you are to particularize the several offices and departments and how many it is necessary to station to each.

45 You recommend Francis Gladman who has wrote for some time under your Secretary to be appointed a covenant servant as we know nothing of him we do not think proper to comply with your recommendation and we direct that you inform us how he came to Bengal and what were your motives for employing him and if you find he had not our licence to reside in India you are to send him to England

46 At the instance of the friends of the Revd. Mr Thomas Blomer one of our chaplains at Bombay we have agreed to remove him from thence to fill up the vacancy of Chaplain at Fort William and do now give directions accordingly to Bombay for his repairing to Bengal on his arrival there he is to be appointed Second Chaplain at the Presidency

47 With respect to Mr Plaisted's application and your recommendation for his having the same standing on your establishment in the rank of covenant servants as he would have had from the time of our appointing him a factor for Bombay and to rise in the service in the usual course we cannot comply therewith as by our letter of the 9th March 1763 he was appointed and fixed to be the

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March 1 65 Para.  
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youngest factor upon the Bengal list only that he might have the protection and advantages in trade enjoyed by our covenant servants. However, as we are sensible of his merit in the attention and assiduity he has bestowed in the stations he has been employed in, we would have you give him all the reasonable encouragement his services deserve agreeable to his situation, in any other way than rising upon the list of covenant servants, which as before observed we do not think proper to comply with, especially as we are come to a resolution that no persons in a military capacity shall for the future be admitted upon the civil list at Fort St George.

48 Roger Carter Esqr having desired our permission to resign the Government of Fort Marlborough on account of his bad state of health and reside in some other part of India, we have accordingly given him leave to resign, but as we cannot comply with the other part of his request, he is directed to return directly to England upon the expiration of the time. It is our pleasure he should continue in the Government that is to say, until the last day of January 1767, unless a ship arrives upon the West Coast, in which he can take passage for England before that time, in which case he is to surrender up the Government upon his embarking on such ship, or as much sooner as may be convenient to him.

49 We are now to inform you that we have appointed Richard Wyatt Esqr, President and Governour of Fort Marlborough and all its dependancies upon the west coast of Sumatra to commence upon Mr Carter's quitting it as beforementioned, and we have settled the Council in the following manner *vizt*

50 Richard Wyatt Esqr, President and Governour as beforementioned, Mr Joseph Darvall, Second in Council and to succeed to the Government in case of a vacancy therein by the death or otherwise of Mr Wyatt, Messrs Robert Hay, third, George Scott, fourth, Robert Nairne, fifth, John Herbert, sixth, Hugh Stewart, seventh, John Guild, eighth and Stokeham Donston, ninth and last in the said Council.

51 In our letter to you of the 21st November 1764, we admitted that Mr Henry Plowman one of our covenant servants upon the Fort Marlborough establishment might continue in Bengal until he had discharged the trust reposed in him by Mr Vansittart with respect to his private concerns. We now confirm the same, but at the same time we direct that as soon as those affairs are finished Mr Plowman is forthwith to repair to his station at Fort Marlborough or return to England by the first conveyance that shall afterwards offer, which you are to signify to him, and also take care to see these directions are complied with.

52 Upon the particular application of the friends of Mr Robert Hunter late one of our surgeons at Fort Marlborough, we appointed him a factor there, but as we find he was permitted before notice of that appointment was received to proceed as surgeon of the *Bute*, and you have since appointed him to be a supernumerary surgeon on the Bengal establishment we now direct that you signify to him that he is to return forthwith to Fort Marlborough and take upon him the station of a factor on that establishment or that he return to England by the first convenient opportunity, one or other of which we give in charge to you to take care is complied with.

53 You are in future to add to your military list the names of all the cadets unprovided for that we may know how those are preferred who we recommend from time to time, and this is the more necessary as it has been intimated that free merchants and others have been often advanced over the heads of those who proceed from hence with our directions to succeed in their turn as vacancies offer for we lay it down as a rule that those who proceed under our orders are first to be provided for unless you give us very good reasons to the contrary And we further direct that all the cadets we send out be employed in the military service only and not suffered to enter into any other employment and further a regular list of the said cadets, distinguishing in what manner they are disposed of must be sent us from time to time properly authenticated in your list of military by the commanding officer for the time being

54 On consideration of the case of Captain John Francis de Beck an officer who has served with reputation on the Fort St. George establishment but being a foreigner an inferior officer was advanced by the President and Council there, to a majority over the head of Captain de Beck on account only of his being a foreigner but as we have since formed our troops into battalions, with Colonels Lieutenant Colonels and Majors to command them we see no reason why officers though foreigners should not rise to a certain rank provided they are found deserving, and have therefore directed that Captain de Beck do succeed to the first majority at Fort St. George that shall become vacant after the receipt of the letter which these ships carry thither but that he is not to rise to an higher rank in our forces than Major and that such restraint be observed as a standing rule for the future with respect to all foreigners which we make you acquainted with that you may strictly observe the same that is to say that no foreigner is to be promoted to an higher rank than Major and you are to make it known accordingly to all foreign officers serving in our troops under your Presidency

55 We have received a letter from Brigadier General Carnac dated the 5th February 1765 apologising for having declined to accept of our service for some time and assigning as the cause of his so doing that he could not resume his station with propriety or with the prospect of being of any utility while the person continued in the Presidency whom he had rendered his inveterate enemy meaning (as we suppose) our late President Mr Vansittart We find the same apology offered to you in his letter to the Board of the 24th December 1764 This information from General Carnac (without which we might have remained wholly ignorant that he had declined our service) has led us into reflections on your conduct and has in no wise to the advantage of either We can hardly impute to an involuntary omission your silence on this subject both in your letters to us and on your records We find indeed on your Consultation the 29th October a resolution to communicate to him our order of the 10th April 1764 which reinstated him and we must suppose it was accordingly done We must suppose also that he did not accept of our service at that time although no such matter appears publickly and this is one instance wherein you appear to us reprehensible for you should have publickly intimated on his declaring himself and whether his reasons appeared to you sufficient or otherwise your resolution should have been recorded and then in either case you would have been at liberty to have taken proper

measures concerning the chief command of the army and its operations upon Major Munro's quitting it, but so far was this from being the case, that when you received Major Munro's letter of the 22nd November (read in Consultation 6th December) intimating his intention of leaving the army the beginning of January, you contented yourselves with writing to him to stay as long as he could, and suffered fourteen days more to elapse before you applied publicly to General Carnac to hold himself in readiness to proceed to the army, and it was the 10th of January before he was actually ready to set out from Calcutta. In the mean time Major Munro quitted the command of the army which devolved on the next in rank, Sir Robert Fletcher,<sup>5</sup> whose conduct (if it were rash as you at first seemed to think) might probably be occasioned by the ardent desire of effecting something that might give him an eclat before he should be obliged to yield the command to another, a spirit very laudable when tempered with prudence, but most dangerous to our affairs if exerted for the sole purpose of gaining reputation or wealth, and this risque might as probably have been avoided had General Carnac wholly declined our service and in consequence thereof Sir Robert Fletcher been invested regularly with the command, or if General Carnac had accepted our service at first and been ready to take the command on Major Munro's quitting it.

56 It appears then that from the 29th October to the 24th December, near two months, it remained a doubt whether General Carnac would act or not, and the reason he assigns to us and to you, for not accepting it sooner, leads us to another part of your conduct which we disapprove. We must suppose the same reasons were offered to you at first, and are so far from being admissible that they appear to us to have the most dangerous tendency, for if our officers shall think that enmity and resentment to individuals, amongst those who are invested with our authority, are motives sufficient to justify them in withholding their service, or in other words, if they entertain the notion that they cannot act with propriety under those whose opinions and measures they disapprove, this doctrine we say if admitted, strikes at the fundamental principle of government, which is subordination. This is so evident that we are astonished how you could suffer it to be offered to you without animadversion on your part, but indeed when we have so much cause to complain of its violation in all degrees of our servants, and whilst you yourselves in the disregard you have manifested to our orders, set so publicly the example, how should it be expected that those who are subjected to you should respect yours? With regard to General Carnac you must signify to him that we highly disapprove of his apology as well for the reasons before given, as for the asperity of his stile especially as but a few months before, General Carnac himself joined with others of the Council, in requesting Mr Vansittart to remain in the chair.

57 We sent to Fort Marlborough this season by the ships *Havannah* and *Hawke* about one hundred military recruits, but being sensible they in addition to the present number of our military at that Presidency will very considerably exceed the establishment we have directed of three hundred Europeans, we have therefore acquainted our said President and Council that after making a proper reserve for deaths, they are to take the opportunity of the first and all convenient conveyances to send the surplus Europeans to our Presidencies at Fort William, Fort St George or Bombay, giving the preference, however,



to the two first named where they will be more immediately necessary and in order to prevent any difficulties that might arise at our said Presidencies with respect to rank, we have further directed that no commission officers do proceed with such surplus Europeans. Should therefore any of the recruits from Fort Marlborough in consequence of the above directions arrive at Fort St. George, we have given directions to that Presidency on duly considering all circumstances, either to detain them or forward them to you as shall appear best for the Company's service.

58. In order to comply with your pressing demand for recruits, and as the ships consigned to the Coast and Bay cannot conveniently carry so many as are wanted, the *Speaker* and two of the latter Bombay ships are to call first at Fort St. George with one hundred recruits on board each which when landed the ships are then to proceed to Bombay their proper consigned port without loss of time. As to the said recruits we have directed our President and Council at Fort St. George, to forward all or as many as you may want by the first good conveyances.

59. In our letter of the 24th December last you were directed to give us your reasons for entertaining Lewis du Gloss as an assistant with the rank of Captain in the Corps of Engineers. Upon observing the number of persons employed in that branch, it is more necessary that you should be very explicit in your said reasons and for what particular purposes you entertained him which you must without fail send us. And we further direct that when you want assistant engineers you advise us thereof as we shall supply you from hence with such as you shall really want from time to time.

60. We cannot without the utmost concern reflect upon the uncommon mortality among the recruits on board the *Lord Anson* by which 205 were lost out of 300 which were sent aboard as appears by a return our Paymaster received from Captain Parker one of the military officers who took passage on the said ship though in your letter of the 11th March last you say 224 died before her arrival in the River. We must suppose that you did as soon as possible make an enquiry into what may have been the occasion of this extraordinary calamity fatal to so many poor creatures and attended with great disappointment to your Presidency. But if you have not made such an enquiry we direct that you immediately set about it in the strictest manner you are able by examining all such persons who may be at your Presidency or elsewhere within your reach who were in the *Lord Anson* whether the captain ship's officers and any of the crew or military officers, passengers and others. And send us an account of such enquiry by the first conveyances.

61. Captain Parker in his said letter a copy of which we now send for your information attributes the mortality in a great measure to Captain Calbraith's not putting into the Cape beating a long time upon the west coast of Sumatra, without calling at Fort Marlborough both which he was earnestly pressed to do and being almost destitute of any thing proper for the men. These circumstances merit your particular attention in the enquiry you are to make and therefore we shall expect you will be very minute therein for if they are true we must conclude the Captain and owners have not complied with their agreement for laying in a sufficient stock of necessaries for the

Lre. from 11th  
March 1765 Para.  
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voyage, and that the sufferings of the poor people have been aggravated by Captain Calbraith's obstinacy

62 Considering your great want of recruits for the military service we are much concerned that the *Prince of Wales* was not arrived when the *Bute* left Bengal This delay in Captain Abercromby by his laying at the Cape of Good Hope from the 30th of November to the 13th of January is the more particular, as it appears by his letters to us, his people were in good health and he was ready to proceed on his voyage the 15th of December We take it for granted you have examined into the reasons for Captain Abercromby's continuing so long at the Cape, which we shall expect you will fully inform us of by the first conveyances If contrary to our expectations no such examination has been made, you are to set about it upon the receipt of this, and acquaint us with the result by the very first conveyance afterwards

63 We find the account of salaries and gratuities has encreased of late years so very considerably by the practice you have fallen into contrary to our orders, of creating offices and annexing salaries without first obtaining our permission, that we have found it necessary to make the following reductions

64 The Military Pay-Master and Pay-Master of the Seapoys in Garrison we see are conducted by one person, we therefore direct that you either abolish the last or continue them two offices annexing current rupees one thousand to the former and five hundred to the latter

65 We cannot perceive by the detail of the management of the lands that it can require more than one person's attendance in the duty of Secretary and Accountant, and therefore direct you to reduce the office of Accountant, or continue it and divide the salary to be to each of current rupees 50 per month

66 When you advised us of your having annexed current rupees 300 a month to the office of Persian Translator, we then recommended it to you to reduce it, to which we find you paid no attention As the knowledge of the Persian language now leads to lucrative employments, we do not think it necessary to hold out such great rewards for it, we therefore direct you to reduce it to current rupees 100 per month and his assistant to current rupees 50 per month

67 As the secretaries have all such ample appointments we expect one of them shall at least be qualified for French Translator, and therefore that office and salary must be abolished, also that of Post Master which duty must be performed by the Assistant Secretary or one of the Sub Secretaries The salary annexed to the Clerk to the Committee of Works must be reduced to current rupees 50 per month The Sub *Buxey* and Sub Pay-Master of the Works are to go together at the salary of current rupees 30 per month

68 We are surprized at the great salary annexed to the office of the Clerk of the Court of Requests, it must be reduced to current rupees 1000 and the salary of Clerk to the Court of Cutcherry must be reduced to current rupees 1200 per annum

69 As we are desirous to have our military expences well attended to, we shall acquiesce in the salary given to the Deputy Commissary and shall

expect to see the Commissary's books well kept up and regularly transmitted to us.

70 We observe the clerkship of the Committee of Accounts is held by a writer who has three offices it cannot therefore be a very laborious office, and we therefore reduce the salary to current rupees 500 per annum

71 Our good intension towards our junior servants in permitting salaries to be annexed to offices is in a great measure frustrated by the conferring various offices on one servant which indicates a partiality in the distribution of favours we by no means approve and we therefore positively direct that none of our servants out of Council shall on any account be permitted to hold two gratuity places at one time, and we expect to see a strict conformity to this order in the next account of salary we shall receive after this reaches your hands.

72 The increase of our expence in surgeons for the hospitals, subordinate and army has already been taken notice of in our letter of the 15th February 1765 and we expect to find that you have effected the reduction there recommended otherwise we positively order you to reduce the pay and allowance to the head surgeons within more moderate bounds.

73 The additional allowance of 100 rupees per month which you have made to the chaplains at your Presidency appears to us very great but as you have represented the insufficiency of their former appointment and as we are desirous that they should support their character in a suitable manner we leave it to you to consider whether the increase of expences or the particular circumstances of the present gentlemen can make so large an advance necessary

74 However necessary it might be for the *Fort William's* putting in at Sancta Cruz and the Cape of Good Hope for supplying the recruits on board  
 Lre from 11th that ship with fresh provisions and other refreshments yet  
 March 1 65 Para. your so readily allowing Captain Roch such a large sum  
 13 as £1,299 2 10 for that service and some other articles he  
 supplied them with out of his own stores without entering into any examination whatsoever whether the said charge was reasonable or not, especially as it appears a shilling a day for each man during the time of the ship's laying at the said places is included in the beforementioned sum shews great inattention to the Company's interest and as a further aggravation of your want of care you refer us in your letter to the particulars on your Consultations of which that sum is composed but upon turning thereto we find indeed Captain Roch's letter entered but nothing of the account referred to so that we ourselves for want thereof are deprived of forming a judgment thereupon any otherwise than as it appears a part of the charge consisted of fifteen pipes of wine at 250 Arcot rupees a pipe whereas the price at Sancta Cruz could not exceed £10 a pipe each and all charges included from which we may suppose the rest of the articles to be proportionably exorbitant We insist upon your entering into an examination of that account and to see what has been unnecessary or overcharged and if Captain Roch or any representative of him or the owners are in India that you recover the amount if not send us a full account of your proceedings a copy of the account and your opinion upon the whole that we may endeavour to recover the amount here

75 At the same time that you agreed to discharge the beforementioned sum, you ordered payment to Captain Roch of the ballance of the freight of the *Fort William* amounting to £1,645-3-8 making together the sum of £2,944-6-6 for which you granted certificates on us, but to shew your further negligence and inattention, you have not sent us a copy of the said account, as you ought to have done and must still do, and in drawing the said certificate, instead of describing that the money was paid into cash on the beforementioned accounts, you have expressly said it was on his indulgence, which implies it was the produce of his private trade, and consequently lays us under a difficulty with respect to the payment of the said certificate

76 The greatest care and regularity should always be observed in drawing upon us for monies paid into your cash, but sorry we are to be under the necessity of saying that of late but little attention has been had thereto, and to shew what we assert is not without foundation, we shall point out some particulars on account of the draughts by the *Bute* lately arrived

Lre from 11th  
March

77 You mention in your letter that you had drawn on us for the remainder of the twenty lacks of that season as per register annexed, but omit the amount, and the register referred to is a list of bills without dates, totals, or being signed by you, the accountant, sub accountant or any other person whatsoever, by which omissions the proper checks are lost, for the future therefore you are to take care that the advices in the body of your letters and the registers correspond with each other and that you sign the latter as well as the letters

78 The certificates you granted to Capt Maitland, his Chief Mate and Purser for money paid into cash on account of their indulgence, are drawn payable at ninety days sight and two shillings and four pence a rupee, whereas according to our former orders and constant practice, the time of payment and rate of exchange should be left to us to ascertain and consequently ought not to have been inserted in the certificates Neither these certificates or the beforementioned one granted to Captain Roch are added as they ought to have been to the register annexed to your letter, nor are they signed by the accountant or sub accountant even with the initial letters of their names It is surprising you could venture to sign them without so essential an authentication, and we positively direct that for the future the accountant or sub accountant sign their names at length to every bill and certificate that we may be assured the money for which they are drawn is regularly paid into cash And we further direct that you take care that the sums granted for bills or certificates be entered up to the very day of dispatch, in your treasury accounts to be transmitted by every ship, that they may as a further check exactly correspond with your letters and registers which is not the case in those by the *Bute*

79 As the draughts upon us in the course of the last season amounted to so large a sum as twenty lacks of rupees besides those mentioned in your letter by the *Bute* for Major Munro and the officers of his regiment and the captain and officers of the said ship, you did well in refusing to receive any further sums, and here we recommend it to you in the strongest manner to be extremely careful to draw upon us from time to time for no more than shall be absolutely necessary for the Company's service, for if you lose sight of that to serve individuals we shall highly resent it

80 As there are some debits and credits on the ballances of your books ending 1763 which are in a great measure imaginary and prevent us from seeing the real balance of your stock we recommend to you to consider how far this may be remedied without any inconvenience.

81 With respect to the account restitution 1757 though we suppose that most parts of it are by this time adjusted, yet as the manner in which this transaction was at first conducted has prevented the state of the several funds from appearing on your books it may be necessary to let the whole account continue as at present while the balance to the European sufferers remains unadjusted.

82 But as to the credit given the Nabob Jaffier Ally Cawn for current rupees 11,62,277 9 5 we do not see the expediency of your continuing the same on balance that sum appearing to be for pay of the army at Patna might properly have been carried to the credit of your campaign operations, and indeed we cannot account for your not doing this at the same time that you wrote off at once the campaign operations for several years. However if you should not have discharged your subsequent books of this sum or have not sufficient reason for its continuance, the same should be wrote off as such imaginary credits diminish the nett balance of your stock.

83 We also observe that the expedition against the Dutch and the indemnification received from them remain both on balance. If these accounts are compleated and nothing further is to be paid or received on either we see no reason why they may not be closed and the difference wrote off to profit and loss.

84 We could not but be surpris'd to see account deposits stand debtor in a sum of current rupees 11,674-4-6. This we find to be owing to your having paid to that amount more than the deposits in your hands and in examining the several accounts comprehended under this head it appears that the over payment was to the estate of Major Kilpatrick. In order therefore that we may not suffer by the inattention of our servants at your Presidency we expect that you will without delay take every measure in your power for the recovery of the sum that has been overpaid but if by the length of time that has elapsed you should have lost the opportunity of applying to the proper persons in Bengal you must not fail to send us a regular account thereof authenticated under the seal of the Mayor's Court together with such information as may be necessary to support a demand in England. At the same time that we mention this to you we must still observe that we shall not rest satisfied with such a loss for in this or in every other like instance of neglect we consider our servants as answerable for the consequences and expect to be indemnified by them.

85 There are other debits also on your books which have remained invariable for several years and ought to have been adjusted or reasons assigned for their continuance particularly those in the names of John Cooke Adrian Bidom Luke Sraffton and William Watts. If these accounts shall not have been closed on your later books they must be immediately examined into and proper measures taken for the recovery of what shall then appear justly due but if from any cause you should not be able to effect the same you must carefully state such accounts and transmit them to us duly authenticated.

giving us a full explanation of them and assigning the reasons why they have remained uncleared for so long a time

86 As to the balances brought from your books 1756, such as old factories and buildings, old outstanding debts, *dadney* due from the merchants, goods from Europe per ship *Lynn* 1750, *chunam* contract and charges law suits, though it may be thought expedient to continue the same, yet that we may not be misled in our estimate of your real stock, we would have such debits as you deem irrecoverable, or cannot be considered of any value, follow each other on your balance under the general title of desperate or bad debts, that we may as we shall see occasion, give you further instructions with respect thereto

87 We have from time to time remarked on your omission to supply us with several materials requisite for our better examination into the different parts of the transactions of your Presidency, but here we cannot avoid reminding you that as the state of your revenues is become so great an object of attention, it is necessary that we should be acquainted with every particular relative thereto, which we cannot discover by your general books even were they transmitted in due time, as those books do not shew us what balances are outstanding, or the particular charges attending the collection of each respective revenue We therefore direct that in future you send us regularly every year the *purgunnah* accounts and those of the Committee of New Lands, digested in such a manner that we may not only see the amount of the gross annual rent (where such is ascertained) but also the receipts and particular charges attending the collection whereby we may also be enabled to discover the arrears of each revenue

88 And here we are led to remark that had such an account been before you when you ordered the President to be paid his commission of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the nett revenues of Burdwan, Chittagong and Midnapore, you would then have known the exact charges and not have drawn such commission on an estimate of them as appears by the account entered on Consultations 12th March 1764

89 The expence of your marine being to a considerable amount, and it being frequently necessary for us to examine into the articles of which it is composed, we likewise direct that a copy of your Master Attendant's books be every year transmitted to us

90 As you cannot plead the want of a sufficient number of covenant servants at your Presidency to transact with ease the business of it, we rely on your punctually supplying us in future with copies of all subsidiary books signed by each respective officer and here we cannot but observe to you that all copies must be carefully compared with the originals, the neglect of which appears by the frequent inaccuracies that we meet with in the books you send us, and even in your General Books, which we have the greater cause to complain of, as those are or always ought to be signed by your sub-accountant, who should take care that they are duly examined

91 By the balances of your accounts current with your subordinates (Cossimbuzar and Dacca in particular) we find that they are debited for many articles to a very large amount which they had not brought on their books This discovers such carelessness and inattention in our servants at your subordinates as is highly blameable, and indeed we cannot acquit you of censure

for suffering those accounts to continue from year to year without being adjusted in a proper manner

92. But as we know not how far these differences may have been accounted for in their books subsequent to April 1762, we can here only direct that (in case this should not have been done) you immediately enter upon a strict enquiry into the reasons of the difference betwixt their balances and your own and as we have already given you orders for sending us copies of your subordinate books, we hope and expect to receive them in future clear of that irregularity and confusion, in which we have such reason to fear they have been kept for several years.

### Supplement

93 Since giving you an account in the beginning of this letter of a vessel following the *Cruttenden* *Havannah* and *Hawke* in order to put aboard one or other of the said ships her cargo of bales and cases, we have received certain information that the said goods were delivered on board the *Cruttenden* off Dover you are therefore hereby directed to pursue all the directions and orders given in this letter that of the Secret Committee and all others referred to with respect to illicit trade in the most exact and punctual manner And we must here assure you that if through your neglect the said goods shall escape being seized on the Company's account you will incur our highest displeasure

94 And further considering our proceedings with respect to illicit trade were so well known we look upon the receiving the said goods on board the *Cruttenden* as the highest insult upon and contempt of our authority If therefore it shall appear to you upon the strictest enquiry as before directed with this addition of examining the mates and the rest of the officers of the ship in the most solemn manner upon oath that the said goods are actually on board or have been aboard and delivered before her arrival at your port it is our express and positive order and upon no pretence or consideration whatsoever to be dispensed with that you forthwith dismiss Captain Bowland from the command of the *Cruttenden* and send him to England by the first conveyance that offers excepting in the said ship and appoint his chief officer Captain in his room as we are thoroughly satisfied Captain Bowland must either be actually concerned in the said goods, or that he knowingly received or permitted them to be received on board or both which we look upon in the same aggravating light.

95 As His Majesty's ship the *Argo* was sent to China so late in the season with such a large consignment to the China Council as ten lacks of rupees you did well as we have before observed for greater security

See from 6th  
Febry 1763 Para.  
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to send the *Cuddalore* schooner to accompany her Although the said remittance has been of signal use yet we shall be glad to be informed of the expence the Company have been put to on this occasion you are therefore to make a calculate of the freight demorage wages and all other charges and expences whatsoever incurred by sending the schooner to and in China and her return to Bengal and transmit the same to us by the first conveyances together with your opinion thereupon.

96 We have frequently represented the bad tendency of sending to private persons accounts of our affairs in India, and forbid such practices particularly in our letters to you under date of the 1st April 1760 paragraph 116, the 19th February 1762 paragraph 57 and the 1st June 1764 paragraph 48, and as the like notices were communicated to our other Presidencies, no person can with propriety plead ignorance of them. Having premised this, we are to inform you, that we received by the penny post from a friend of Sir Robert Fletcher's, an open letter from Sir Robert, addressed to our Secret Committee, dated Eliabad Fort 12th February 1765, relating to the operations of the army under his command, so that his friend had the perusal thereof, which on no account whatsoever ought to have been done, and even that in preference to ourselves. The manner of sending this letter, even supposing he should pretend ignorance of our beforementioned orders, is so disrespectful and slighting, that unless he shall give you very satisfactory reasons for this his imprudent and prejudicial conduct, we shall resent it in a way that will be very disagreeable to him, and this you are forthwith to communicate to Sir Robert and demand his reasons accordingly.

97 In order entirely to put a stop to these prejudicial practices, we now confirm in the strongest manner the directions we have given in our beforementioned letters, and we enjoin you our President and Council to take care that they are strictly carried into execution for the future. And you are to make these our orders as publickly known as possible, that no person in whatever station he may be can have it in his power to plead ignorance.

98 Messieurs George Buck and Francis Swain Ward, two of the mutinous lieutenants late upon the Fort St George establishment, mentioned in our letter of the 15th February 1765, who were so deservedly dismissed the service, having applied to us to be reinstated, we have not only rejected their petition, but as persons of such turbulent dispositions may be the occasion of many difficulties and trouble, we have determined not to permit them ever to serve the Company again in any of their settlements, or be allowed to reside in or return to India again on any pretence or consideration whatsoever, of which we give you this notice that if they should get out without our knowledge, you are without fail to send them to England again by the first conveyance that offers.

99 As we have not heard any thing of the other three lieutenants *vizt* John Bridger, Arnold Hunterman and Robert Phillips who were connected with and equally guilty with Messrs Buck and Ward, we shall expect upon the arrival of the next ships to hear if they have been found within the limits of your Presidency, that you have complied with the positive orders in our said letter of the 15th February 1765 for sending them to England, but if contrary to our expectations they have not been carried into execution, you are to enquire strictly after them, and send them to England by the very first conveyance, as persons highly unfit to reside at any of our settlements whatsoever. We send the like orders to our other Presidencies.

100 In consequence of your request, in the 1st paragraph of the supplement of your letter dated 11th March 1765, we have obtained, and herewith send you, an attested copy of His Majesty's free pardon for Radachurnd Metre<sup>6</sup>



101 Upon the proceedings transmitted to us of the General Quarter Sessions, when the convict was tried we are to observe to you that he is indicted for feloniously *presenting* the forged codicil which is not the offence mentioned in the statute and therefore we must suppose this to be a mistake in the copy and that the indictment preferred was for feloniously *publishing* the said forged codicil as a true one. This codicil, and also all forged wills and deeds upon which capital indictments are preferred should be literally set forth and the indictment would have been quashed in our courts here for want of form. In the present case we find no where amongst the proceedings or in your packet a copy of the forged codicil, and we observe too that one of the subscribing witnesses to it positively swears, that Coja Solomon desired him to attest this codicil. Certainly the jury were the best judges of the weight that ought to be given to this man's testimony but upon the evidence appearing on the face of these proceedings without a knowledge of the credibility and character of the witnesses, there appears but slender legal evidence to ground a conviction of the prisoner upon and we are very glad you have interfered in his behalf.

102 The copy of a letter from Mr John Zephaniah Holwell<sup>r</sup> dated in London the 13th April 1763 addressed to Mr John Wollaston at Bengal has been communicated to us, signifying he had appointed him his attorney there for receiving on his account the remaining part of a *teep* or obligation Mr Holwell had obtained from the Nabob (Cossim Ally Khan) for two lacks of *sicca* rupees whereof he had received before his departure Rs. 50,000 as a grateful acknowledgment for the friendship he had shewn him and cautioning Mr Wollaston to use all his prudence and secrecy in the said transaction as were also the subjoined copies of a letter from Mr James Amyatt to Mr Warren Hastings (then in Bengal) dated the 2nd of March desiring to know what answer should be given to Mr Holwell relative to the obligation above mentioned which had been left in Mr Hastings's management, and of a letter signed W. H. supposed to be from Mr Hastings in reply thereto without date signifying that he had received a lack of rupees and accounted with him for it copies of all which in the manner they were laid before us we now transmit to you for your fuller information in this affair.

103 The said letters confirm us in the opinion which we have had too much reason to entertain that Mr Holwell and others received large sums of the late Nabob Cossim Ally Khan for seating him in the *subahship* by the depoual of Meer Jaffier as the said revolution has been attended with infinite trouble and expense and there is reason to apprehend the lucrative view of individuals had too great a share in bringing it about we do therefore positively direct that you do forthwith make the strictest enquiry in your power into the transaction mentioned in the said letters with respect to Mr Holwell's *teep* for two lacks of rupees also of what further sums he received from the Nabob by the way of donation or under any other denomination whether by agreement in writing or otherwise in what manner they were obtained and for what services. And you are to transmit to us by the first conveyances, copies of such your examinations authenticated in the most solemn manner by the oaths of all persons whatsoever who know any thing of the said affair whether they are in the Company's service or otherwise and in particular of the said Mr Amyatt who is now at your Presidency. As we have before observed that there is too much reason to believe others received large sums of money for

bringing about or being in some way concerned in the said revolution, you are further hereby positively directed to make the like enquiry, and with the same strictness and solemnity whether any of our servants civil and military, or any other persons whatsoever, have received any sum or sums of money on that account and what And you are to acquaint us with the names of such persons and the sums they have so received, together with all the circumstances attending the same, authenticated as before directed We are further to acquaint you that it is our meaning that your enquiry is to extend not only to the sums received at the precise period of the said revolution, but also to whatever was received on that account, whether before or after it, as we look upon the whole in the same light

104 We are since informed that the beforementioned lack of rupees received by Mr Hastings was paid to him by Coja Petruse, who though he is since dead, his family must undoubtedly know of this transaction You are therefore to examine them in the same strict and solemn manner as before directed, and send us the result thereof at the same time with your other enquiries

105 In our letter of the 13th of December last, we gave you an account of the disposition of the voyages of the several ships gone and proceeding to India this season, and although we apprehend you will there find sufficient information and directions for their being dispatched home the same season, yet to prevent the least mistake in so important an affair, we now declare to you that it is our meaning that no other than the *Osterley* destined from Bombay to China (or in case of any accidents preventing it, some other ships in her room) is to be detained a season extraordinary at any of our settlements on any pretence whatsoever if it can possibly be avoided, as we are determined to put a stop to the ranging about of our shipping from port to port, which has been too much practiced of late to the great detriment of the Company and the owners In our said letter you were directed to mutually fix upon a plan with our other Presidencies for dispatching home all our ships accordingly, which we shall depend upon being carried into execution so far as your Presidency may be concerned We cannot foresee the several circumstances that may happen, but thus far we can say, it is our further meaning, and consequently our directions that if a ship shall happen to be at your Presidency from any of our other settlements, and it shall be too late for her return to such settlement or settlements, to be dispatched home in time to save her passage, you are in such case, if you have a cargo for her, to dispatch her home from your Presidency, even though it may be something short of the charter-party tonnage We now give the like orders to our Presidencies of Fort St. George and Bombay

106 We have acquainted our President and Council at Bombay, that in case the *Osterley* should by any unforeseen events be prevented from proceeding to China so early in the year 1767 as to save her passage thither agreeable to her present destination, in such case the *Nottingham* is to have the preference of that voyage

107 We have likewise informed and directed them that if the *Nottingham* does not proceed to China, and arrives at Bombay in good time, they are to send her to your Presidency and Fort St. George, either on freight, or with a

suitable cargo on the Company's account or partly both to be returned back again in such a manner as will make the voyage turn out most to the advantage of the Company and we give the like directions with respect to employing the *Duke of Albany* in the same manner We send you and our Presidency of Fort St. George this information that you may be ready respectively to take the necessary measures for the Company's best advantage by the said two ships voyages.

108. Notwithstanding this arrangement for the voyages of the *Nottingham* and *Duke of Albany* it is our meaning that they are to be employed in the manner pointed out provided the rules laid down in the 105th paragraph are strictly conformed to and upon no other terms, of which you and our other Presidencies are to take the necessary care.

We are

Your loving friends,

Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo. Dudley /  
Thos. Rous / Rob Jones / Cha. Cutts /  
Heny Savage / John Manship / Fredk.  
Pigou / F W Barrington / Thos.  
Saunders / John Roberts / J Creswicke /  
Edwd Wheeler / George Cuming / J  
Pardoe / John Stephenson / Charles  
Chambers / John Harrison / J Purling /  
Luke Scrafton / Hen. Hadley / E. H.  
Cruttenden / Jos. DuPre.

London  
the 19th February 1766.

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## LETTER DATED 26 MARCH 1766

*Prohibition of opium in China—no free merchant to be admitted to civil or military service without permission*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1 The ships *Lord Camden* *Pigot* and *Speaker* left the Downs on the 21st of February the two first carried our letter to you in duplicate under date of the 19th of the same month a triplicate whereof we take the opportunity of sending by the *Devonshire* which ship with the *Anson* are now under dispatch for Fort St. George and Bombay

2 We have been very fortunate this season in the early outset of our several ships as you will observe by the lists transmitted to you the last we dispatched were the *Osterley* *Duke of Albany* and *Nottingham* directly to Bombay which sailed from the Downs on the 16th and 18th of March We hope the same good fortune will attend the abovementioned ships *Devonshire* and *Anson* the only ones of this season remaining especially as you have

been already advised their being ordered first to Fort St George is to land about 100 military recruits from each to be disposed of as mentioned in the 58th paragraph of our letter under date of the 19th of February in consequence of your earnest request for recruits

3 As it may possibly happen that the *Devonshire* and *Anson* may not reach the Coast of Choromandel in a proper season to land the beforementioned recruits, though we hope that will not be the case, on such a supposition, however, we have given the commanders discretional orders to make the best of their way to Bombay, but as our only view in ordering the said ships first to Fort St George was to supply that Presidency and you with the recruits they carry we have directed our President and Council of Bombay, in case the ships should not be able to reach Fort St George, to carry our intentions into execution in the best and most expeditious manner they can by forwarding the said recruits either to your or Fort St George Presidency by the first conveyances that offer

4 It has been intimated to us that sundry articles of private trade to a large amount were put on board the *Argo* frigate and the *Cuddalore* sloop which attended her from Bengal to China among which was a very considerable quantity of opium of which no notice has been taken in any of your advices, a neglect that is very displeasing to us which we expect and direct you will in some measure atone for by immediately making a strict enquiry into the several species, qualities and values of the said private trade so shipped, to whom they belonged with every other particular that may give us a full insight into this transaction, all which you are to transmit to us without fail by the first conveyances that offer after your receiving this letter

5 As opium is prohibited by the Chinese Government to be imported in that kingdom, and the introducing it there can be only in a clandestine manner, we have too much reason to apprehend very bad consequences may result to the Company by the embarrassment of their affairs with the said government You are therefore to be more particularly attentive in the course of your said enquiry with respect to this article that we may have the fullest and clearest account of every circumstance relating thereto necessary for our information

6 To the many disagreeable circumstances taken notice of in our letter of the 19th of February last with respect to the bales which Captain Maitland of the *Bute* returned as not being able for want of room in his ship to receive them aboard, and the loss of those by the foundering of the *Nancy* sloop making in the whole 359 bales, we are to add this further mortification that it appears upon our Warehousekeeper's comparing the goods received with the invoice and bill of lading that by much the greatest part of the said 359 bales were the finest part of the cargo, which you were much to blame in sending down last, considering the lateness of the season and the hazard they were thereby actually exposed to You are therefore in future to take care that the fine goods be sent aboard in time that if any are returned it may fall upon the coarse and not the fine goods

7 In our said letter we mentioned the difficulties we were under for getting at the knowledge of the sorts of the goods returned, in order to prevent

any future neglects of this kind to what we have directed in our said letter we add that upon the dispatch of every ship one of our covenant servants as well as the Master Attendant do proceed down the River for that purpose as used formerly to be the custom who is to see the whole dispatch regularly conducted and to acquaint us by letter of every particular necessary for our information.

8 As we have reason to believe that persons who proceed to or reside in the East Indies with our permission under free merchants covenants, in the seafaring way or otherwise have a view therein of getting into the Company's service in order to prevent this illicit practice you are therefore to observe it as an invariable rule or standing order that no free merchant or any other person proceeding to or residing in the East Indies, whether with or without our permission be admitted or taken into either the civil or military service of the Company on any pretence whatsoever without our express leave.

9 As you have not complied with the orders given in the 87th paragraph of the General Letter of the 22nd February 1764 for transmitting distinct and sufficient lists of seafaring persons and of free merchants inhabitants and others residing at Fort William and under the Presidency we are under the necessity of acquainting you that a further delay in paying a full and proper obedience to those directions will meet with our resentment. We therefore positively insist on your immediate compliance with those orders and that the lists to be framed and sent in consequence thereof, do include every European (not in the covenanted civil or our military service) resident either at Fort William the subordinates or any place within the limits of the Presidency with a precise and full description of their quality or profession the time of their arrival whether they are or are not licensed and every other information that may render such lists as complete and perfect as possible.

10 As the services of so good an officer as Major Charles Pemble will be of great utility to the Company on the Bombay establishment he is to return thither accordingly by the first opportunity either with or without the rest of the commission officers of the Bombay detachment under his command when ever he or they can be spared and as you have granted him a major's brevet on your establishment so long as he continues in Bengal notwithstanding

Para 5 therefore what was said in our letter of the 24th December last you are to acquaint him that upon his arrival at Bombay the President and Council have our directions to grant him a major's commission there to bear even date with the brevet you gave him vizt., on the first day of January 1764 and take rank next to Major John Gouin and in case of the death of that gentleman that Major Charles Pemble is to succeed him in the command of the Company's forces upon the Bombay establishment and that it is our meaning he is immediately upon his return to have the command of his artillery company again and we have further directed that in consideration of his being promoted to the rank of major he have an allowance of five shillings a day in addition to his pay as captain of an artillery company

11 As you have made no reply to the 17th paragraph of our letter of the 22nd February 1764 requiring that Martin Biggleston who had deserted from his station of third mate of the *East Temple* should be sent to England and his friends being very anxious for a knowledge of his situation you are to

consider our former directions as in full force if he should be living, and in that case or otherwise collect and transmit as authentick accounts as you can obtain of all circumstances relating to him that we may be enabled to give his relations all the satisfaction in our power

We are,

Your loving friends,

Hy Crabb Boulton / Geo Dudley /  
Thos Rous / Rob Jones / Heny  
Savage / Cha Cutts / John Manship /  
John Harrison / F W Barrington /  
John Stephenson / Hen Hadley / George  
Cuming / Charles Chambers / J Pardoc /  
Edwd Wheler / Jos DuPré / John  
Roberts / Thos Saunders / Wm Web-  
ber / Fredk Pigou / J Purling / Luke  
Scrafton

London,  
26th March 1766

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## LETTER DATED 2 MAY 1766

*Congratulate Clive on the treaty settlement and on the suppression of corruption—request him to continue for another season in Bengal*

**T**HE Right Honorable Robert Lord Clive Baron of Plassey K B, President and Governor of Fort William in Bengal

My Lord,

1 The *Admiral Stevens* arrived here in a leaky condition at Lisbon on the 31st March from whence Captain Griffin sent all the packets committed to his care in one of the King's packet boats which we received on the 19th of last month

2 It gave us the utmost pleasure to observe by those despatches with what zeal and indefatigableness, and which we have the highest sense of, Your Lordship has pursued the true interest of the Company in many affairs of great consequence, more particularly in settling the peace of the country upon so advantageous a footing as well to the Company as all others concerned and in detecting and in laying open to our view the general corruption, rapacity and oppression of our servants

unanimous request that you will continue another season in Bengal,<sup>1</sup> the doing which will further add to the honor and reputation Your Lordship has already most deservedly acquired and will lay a lasting obligation upon the Company

4 This request is of so much consequence that we have thought it necessary to send it overland to be forwarded to Bengal by way of Bussorah as it may probably come to your hand before the arrival of the *Mercury* packet which we are using our endeavors to get away in about a fortnight, by which we shall send our sentiments observations, and directions upon the several advices received by the *Admiral Stevens* as fully as so short a time will admit of.

We are

My Lord

Your Lordship's loving friends,

Geo Dudley / Tho. Rous / Rob Jones /  
Jno Stephenson / J Purling / Fredk.  
Pigou / Heny Savage / Thos. Saunders /  
Christ. Baron / F W Barrington /  
Chas. Chambers / J Creswicke / J  
Pardoe/George Cuming/Peter Du Cane  
Junr /E. H. Cruttenden/John Roberts/  
Geo Wombwell / Jno Harrison / Edwd.  
Wheler / Jos. Du Pré / Luke Sraffton.

London

2nd May 1766.

22

## LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1766

*Regret persistence in illicit trade by captains of Company's ships—jealousy of European nations at the growing power of the British—approve the amicable manner in which the French received the settlements in consequence of the treaty—misbehaviour and corruption of servants on the accession of Najmud Daulah—composition of the Council at Bengal—no military officer to have permanent seat in the Council—continuance of the Select Committee in Bengal—powers of the Select Committee—restrictions on grant of bills and receipt of money for certificates—Clive to have bills or certificates for the money from his jagir—ask for an account of the Diwani of Bengal Bihar and Orissa*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 Our last advices to you went under date of the 26th of March past to Fort St. George by the ships *Deonshire* and *Anton* they proceeded on their voyages the 6th of April following those advices were directed to be expeditiously forwarded to you and triplicate thereof accompanies this

2 On the 31st March last the ship *Admiral Stevens* was obliged in a very leaky condition to put into Lisbon to refit from that port came to our hands on the 19th ultimo by the *Expedition* packet boat to which the same were

transhipped, the several packets committed to Captain Griffin's charge enclosing your General Letter, also letter from the Select Committee both dated the 30th September last, and letter from the Right Hon'ble the President of the same date with the several accompanying treaties, *sunnuhs*, firmans and other particulars agreeable to the lists which accompanied the respective packets, under which the same were enclosed, the said ship arrived in the Downes the 10th instant

3 On the 2nd instant we dispatched overland under the strictest orders for the speediest conveyance thereof, a short letter to the Right Hon'ble the President, conveying our approbation of the measures his Lordship had taken and was pursuing so indefatigably and zealously for the Company's advantage, a duplicate thereof went by the same route on the            and triplicate of it sealed is enclosed to be opened by the Select Committee only in case of Lord Clive's absence

4 Since the election on the 9th of April of Directors for the current year, we have appointed George Dudley Esqr, Chairman of the Court, Thomas Rous Esqr, Deputy Chairman, with Charles Cutts, Robert Jones and Henry Savage Esqrs, our Committee of Secrecy, they are invested with the usual powers for giving such directions as they shall see fit, for the safety of our outward and homeward bound ships, such orders therefore as in consequence they shall give, are by the persons to whom the same shall be addressed, to meet with all due obedience

5 That you may as soon as possible be informed of our sentiments in general, on the important points effected since Lord Clive's Government, we have caused the *Mercury* snow burthen 140 tons, navigated with 28 men and carrying guns commanded by Captain Henry Gardiner to be fitted as expeditiously as the nature of the service requires as an advice vessel for that purpose, on her arrival at the Presidency, it is left to your discretion to return her hither if wanted for like occasion or to employ or dispose of her in such manner as may appear most for our advantage, the snow being thus employed, no goods are shipped on our account, but we have placed in the commander's hands, one thousand ounces of foreign silver for her use in the voyage, if she should be under the necessity of putting into any port for repairs or refreshment, he is therefore to account for the disposal of any part of it, and deliver the ballance thereof to you We enclose an inventory of the *Mercury*, and every thing belonging to her, the account of the charge of the outset, the contract of the mariners and their respective wages, the manifest of private trade licensed to be shipped, copy of the captain's instructions and all other necessary papers

6 Should there be no occasion for the return of the *Mercury* to England, and it shall appear proper to employ her in any manner or for any time in our service, you may continue the captain, officers and crew in her, if she shall be disposed of, we recommend it to you, after paying the wages in full that may be due, to provide for them in the Company's service according to their merit and stations, and they are to take their standing from the dates of their entering into it, which will appear in the enclosed contract, otherwise they may, if they prefer it, engage in the private sea service, but should they be desirous of returning to England, and there are no berths procurable in our freighted ships, you will give them orders to be received on board, and we will make an allowance according to charterparty terms, for their passage thereon



7 By this conveyance we write to the Select Committee in answer to their letter of the 30th September last, but as our letter to them contains matter of general and great importance to the affairs of the Presidency when it is laid before you it is to be regarded and obeyed to all intents and purposes, as if directed to you in the usual manner of a General Letter

8. It is extremely satisfactory to us to observe how seasonably you entered upon the consideration of a provision for the ships consigned to Bengal and the measures to be taken for assisting towards the dispatch of those to be laden from the other Presidencies. We Lre. from 30th Sept 1765 Para 6, 7 & 8. persuade ourselves considering the situation of your finances, your design of sending home three ships with full cargoes will not only be effectually executed but that you will be able to extend your provision to a ship or two more if such shall happen to be at Bengal at a proper time

9 It was most certainly right to send us by as early and expeditious a conveyance as possible, an account of the important situation of our affairs in Bengal and we could have wished the *Lapwing* had been in a condition to have answered the purpose but we find that your reason for not sending her was, because you did not deem her a good sailing vessel instead of her therefore, you purchased the *Admiral Stevens* the prime cost and outset whereof amounted about £16,640 over and above the wages which came to about £1,500 more, making together £18 100 The hull and stores when sold here will most probably not produce more than £1,000 It is true there must be brought to the credit of the account about £9,500 for freight of the cargo which two sums make £10,500 so that this express really stands us in about £7,600 which for so crazy a vessel as she appears to be by her putting into Lisbon to refit is an extraordinary expence when it is considered you might upon so very particular an occasion have sent either the *Asia* or *Kent* either of which ships from the length of time they were in Bengal must or ought to have been in a proper condition by which there would have been a considerable saving even if such ship had brought the very same cargo only as the *Admiral Stevens* besides saving the demorage which will be incurred by her detention we are very sensible of your attention being taken up by greater object but still we have thought it necessary to point out the foregoing particulars for your future guidance

10 Notwithstanding the commanders and all others belonging to our late outward bound ships were well acquainted with our measures and intentions for putting a stop to the illicit outward bound trade which has been carried on so greatly to the Company's prejudice yet it is with the utmost concern we are to acquaint you with another instance of the highest insult upon and contempt of our authority as will appear by the accompanying copy of an affidavit made by eight mariners belonging to the snow *Grenade* from which vessel there was on board the *Pigot* Captain George Richard son Commander off the Island Theneriffe 30 bales believed to be cloth and 23 pipes supposed to contain wine that 5 bales of cloth more were intended to have been put aboard the said ship and that the said snow having on board large quantities of iron in bars copper or shot small arms also iron ordnance from 2 to 6 pounders, as will more particularly appear on reference to the said affidavit it may be presumed these also were intended for the *Pigot* and possibly some of them may have been delivered as in fact 208 carriage guns

would have been sent aboard had not a passenger in the *Pigot* (supposed to be Mr Mackay) dissuaded the Captain to the contrary We have in our letters by the ships of this season, given such orders with respect to detecting the illicit trade in our outward bound shipping and proceeding against the offenders, particularly Captain Bowland of the *Cruttenden*, a case similar to this, that there seems to be no necessity to add any further on the present occasion, however, we shall here add, that we expect and direct, that you do proceed in the same manner with respect to the *Pigot*, as we directed in our letter of the 19th February last, concerning the *Cruttenden*, and if it shall appear to you upon the strictest enquiry as directed in our former orders, with this addition of examining the mates upon oath that if any of the said illicit goods are actually on board, or have been aboard and delivered before her arrival at your port, it is our express and positive order, and upon no pretence or consideration whatsoever to be dispensed with, that you forthwith dismiss Captain Richardson from the command of the *Pigot*, and send him to England by the first conveyance that offers excepting in the said ship, and appoint his chief officer, captain in his room, if there is no objection to him, as we are thoroughly satisfied, Captain Richardson must either be actually concerned in the said goods, or that he knowingly received or permitted them to be received on board, or both, which we look upon in the same aggravating light

11 Although these directions will reach you too late for your pursuing them upon the *Pigot's* first arrival they are notwithstanding to be strictly observed if the ship shall be with you upon the receipt of them, or at any time afterwards

12 The assistance offered on your part for the China investment to enable our agents there to provide cargoes for all the ships on their hands, and for the reserve of a large balance for the service of the season of 1766, is a circumstance which affords us the greatest satisfaction, and we shall take our measures accordingly, in our consignments thither the ensuing season, as the China trade is so material an object, we shall rely upon your constant attention thereto, in such a degree, as shall be annually necessary, which we hope will extend to the amount of 40 lacks a year in gold or silver, as you shall be advised will best suit the market

Lre from 30th  
Sept 1765 Pas 9,  
10, 11

13 Considering as before observed, how much money you will have not only to provide a large quantity of goods but also to send a large proportion of the more valuable sortments, we have therefore prepared and herewith transmit an additional list of investment, wherein you will observe the encrease we are desirous of having made in the several species and quantities of goods enumerated in the list already sent you, under date of the 13th December 1765, to which you will give all due attention, and make an addition to your investment in general, to as large an amount as the situation of your treasury can possibly admit of

14 There are many species of goods imported by the French and Dutch, as likewise by our commanders and others in private trade, which have not been provided for us You are therefore to use your endeavours to procure some of those sortments on the Company's account, in part of your investment

## LETTER FROM COURT

15 Being apprehensive that your investments having fallen greatly short of our orders on account of the large quantities of cloths which have been refused or turned out, as not being equal to the musters has been owing to the persons of whom they are purchased not endeavouring to keep them up to their proper qualities but causing them to be made inferior to the musters with an intent purposely to supply the Dutch and French therewith, you will take all the care you can to rectify this abuse, that the Dutch and French may not have such unfair opportunities of encreasing their investments when ours by these means must necessarily fall short.

16 We find complaints have been made both by the French and Dutch Company's agents of impediments they have met with in their investments from our *gomastals* but it is with satisfaction we at the same time observe that every prudent measure has been taken by directions to our servants at the several residencies to prevent any future obstruction to the currency of their investments, with which the said agents seem to be satisfied as nothing is mentioned to the contrary.

17 We may reasonably expect the European nations will be jealous of our growing power in Bengal it must therefore be a particular object of your attention to give them no just cause of complaint but to let them possess the same privileges they are entitled to great care should be taken that our servants at the subordinates and our *gomastals* at the *aurungs* do not impede them in the purchase of their investment. The Company's advantages in the revenues are now become so blended with the general welfare of the country that it is our interest as well as our duty to promote as much as possible the bringing of money from all quarters into the country for which reason as well as to prevent disputes with their sovereigns in Europe we recommend it to you in general to be very circumspect in your behaviour to them and no way to intrude on their privileges and particularly do not obstruct the Dutch in their opium trade which is an object of such importance to them that any difficulties they may be laid under in this part of their investment will certainly be attended with very disagreeable alterations between the two Companies in Europe which must as much as possible be avoided.

18 We observe with pleasure the amicable manner with which the proceedings with Mr Law's the French agent for our delivering up and his receiving the several settlements belonging to that nation in consequence of the late definitive treaty have been mutually conducted and we make no doubt according to present appearances you will in the same friendly manner adjust the objections you mention to have occurred with respect to the settlement at Ballasore said to be not in the condition required by the terms of the treaty.

19 We observe you complied with Mr Law's request to have an officer and twenty European infantry with one hundred scapors to be maintained by them at Chandernagore and fifty of the latter at each of the subordinates also a wall at Chandernagore and twenty six pounder cannon for the purpose of salutes with five artillery men to work the said guns. We wish the concession with respect to the artillery could have been avoided for however willing we are that every proper measure should be taken to cultivate a good harmony with the French yet past experience has too sensibly evinced the little

dependance there can be had upon their moderation As they most certainly had no right by treaty to this concession, you acted very properly in making an agreement to withdraw the terms, whenever you might have reason to apprehend an improper use of them It remains therefore, and we shall expect it of you, that a constant attention be had to the proceedings of the French agents, to prevent their extending the liberty you have granted them, and to remind them, whenever it may be necessary, that they are to look upon it as a mere matter of favour conferred on them, with the sole view of cultivating and keeping up a good harmony between the two nations

20 The time for this dispatch will not permit our taking into consideration the several papers referred to relating to the mint, and indeed as they were under your consideration at the departure of the *Admiral* *Steevens*, we shall be better able to form a judgment thereon, upon the receipt of your next advices

Lre from 30th  
Sepr 1765, Para [ ]

21 Among other the great misbehaviour of our servants, it has been evidently proved that several of them have received great sums of money from the present Nabob, his ministers and others, on his being raised to the *subahdarry* upon the decease of his father Meer Jaffier, as appears upon the proceedings of Lord Clive and the rest of the Select Committee received by the *Admiral Steevens* vizt Mr John Spencer, late President, Messrs Charles Stafford Playdell, William Billers deceased, John Johnstone, Ascanius William Senior, Samuel Middleton, Ralph Leycester, John Burdett, George Gray of Council and Gideon Johnstone, a writer and brother of the beforementioned John Johnstone We therefore hereby order and direct, that upon the receipt of this the said Messrs Playdell, Senior, Middleton, Leycester, Gray and Gideon Johnstone be forthwith dismissed the Company's service, and they as also John Johnstone now in England, and John Burdett who had resigned, are hereby declared to be for ever incapable of being again employed therein

22 With respect to Mr Spencer who we appointed to succeed Mr Crommelin in the Presidency of Bombay, he also being unworthy of any further confidence, is also dismissed from the Company's service, which is signified in our letter in duplicate to that Presidency, transmitted to you in the packet, which you are to forward accordingly by the earliest and safest conveyances

23 As upon the dismissal of so many of our servants who have most unworthily filled the stations as members of your Council and the difficulties which occur to us in appointing others for the present at least from amongst the covenant servants upon the Bengal list, we have thought it proper to introduce Mr Richard Becher, some time since of Council at your Presidency, Mr James Alexander late of Council at Fort St George, both at present in England, also Messrs Claud Russell and William Aldersey, now upon the Fort St George establishment, all of them gentlemen upon whose integrity and abilities we place great confidence, the two last mentioned being particularly recommended by Lord Clive

24 Messrs Becher and Alexander will proceed to their stations the next conveyance after this dispatch, and as to Messrs Russell and Aldersey, the accompanying packet directed to the President and Council of Fort St George contains orders for their proceeding with the utmost dispatch to Bengal, which

## LETTER FROM COURT

you are to forward accordingly by the first conveyance, and you are to signify the same as our express command likewise by all other opportunities that offer

25 Our Council therefore upon the Bengal establishment is hereby ordered and directed to be composed of the following twelve members in the order they are hereunder ranked vizt

The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Clive  
Mr William Brightwell Sumner

Brigadier General John Carnac

Mr Harry Verelst  
Mr John Cartier  
Mr Francis Sykes  
Mr Richard Becher  
Mr James Alexander  
Mr Claud Russell  
Mr Randolph Marriott  
Mr Hugh Watts  
Mr William Aldersey

President and Governor  
Second in Council and to  
succeed Lord Clive as  
President and Governor  
Third but not at any time  
to rise higher in the said  
Council than 3rd  
Fourth  
Fifth  
Sixth  
Seventh  
Eighth  
Ninth  
Tenth  
Eleventh  
Twelfth and last of the said  
Council.

26. Considering the great merit of Mr Verelst we are happy in having so worthy a man near the succession to the Government it is our pleasure therefore that he do succeed thereto upon the decease or coming away of Mr Sumner

27 And as we are satisfied twelve members in Council are sufficient you are not to introduce any above that number without our express leave.

28 Although we have laid it down as a rule for all our Presidencies that no military officer should have a constant seat in the Council upon vacancies happening by the coming away or otherwise of those who at present enjoy the same however considering the case of Colonel Richard Smith as represented in his memorial to you of the 22nd May 1765 and the recommendation of Lord Clive we are induced for the present to deviate therefrom and we accordingly direct that upon the coming away or decease of Brigadier General Carnac that Colonel Smith do succeed him as third in Council but he is never to rise to an higher rank therein. And we further direct that upon Colonel Smith's coming away or decease no other military officer is to succeed him in the Council but the commanding officer for the time being is to be consulted upon military affairs only at which times he is to have a seat and voice at the Board as third in Council.

29 As it will be some time before the new appointed members vizt Messrs Becher, Alexander, Russell and Aklessey can get to Bengal it is our pleasure that the remaining members do conduct the Company's affairs as President and Council until the said four gentlemen arrive but as they severally arrive they are immediately to act in their stations



admissions will not in future be practised except under circumstances of the most unavoidable necessity

37 As the situation of our affairs in Bengal requires that every measure should be taken which may contribute to the conducting them in the many unforeseen events which may occur in a manner the most conducive to the general good and the interest of the Company in particular we think it absolutely necessary to continue a Select Committee and we accordingly hereby order and direct that the said Committee do consist of the undermentioned members vizt

The Right Hon<sup>ble</sup> Lord Clive  
Mr William Brightwell Sumner

President  
Second and to succeed Lord  
Clive  
Third but not to rise higher  
Fourth  
Fifth  
Sixth

Brigadier General Carnac  
Mr Harry Verelst  
Mr Francis Sykes  
Mr Richard Becher

38. Upon the coming away or decease of General Carnac Colonel Richard Smith is to succeed him as third in the said Committee but not rise to a higher rank therein but we further direct as we did with respect to his seat in Council upon Colonel Smith's coming away or decease no other military officer is to succeed him in the Committee, but the commanding officer for the time being is to be consulted upon military affairs only at which time he is to have a seat and voice at the Board as third in Council

39 Although we have appointed six persons yet that number is to be only for the present being intended to introduce Mr Becher who stood high in our service and was formerly a member of the Select Committee we therefore direct that upon vacancies happening by the decease or coming away of any of the beforementioned gentlemen the said Committee do consist of five members only and in case of any other vacancy or vacancies in the said establishment of five they are to be filled up by the remaining members of the Committee out of such of the civil members of the Council only as they shall think proper from time to time.

40 We confirm the powers with which our President Lord Clive and the rest of the Select Committee are already invested and we hereby give them full authority to correct abuses of every kind particularly in the collection and management of our revenues to endeavour by legal means to detect all sorts of corruption in our servants civil and military and to punish immediately those who disobey the Company's orders or disregard the Select Committee's regulations to take cognizance of all proceedings in Bengal against the persons now dismissed by the Company for exacting or receiving presents from the Nabob his ministers and others and to prosecute them conformable to our orders by this conveyance or any future offenders of the like kind. In short we give them full power to do every act and deed which may contribute to preserve peace tranquillity discipline harmony good order and subordination in the settlement by suspending the offenders from our service be they whom they may all other persons not under covenants to us who shall offend in any of these points must have our protection withdrawn from them and be sent home

41 These powers are to remain in force during Lord Clive's continuance in Bengal, and if the Select Committee should be divided in opinion on any question it is our pleasure that Lord Clive have the casting vote. But this casting vote is not to extend to any other President after Lord Clive's departure from Bengal, nor is the Select Committee to be continued unless his Lordship shall judge it for the interest and benefit of the Company. But if Lord Clive shall have left Bengal before this reaches you and his Lordship has thought it necessary to continue the Select Committee, in such case, the said Committee is to exist until our further orders are received, we do also hereby delegate and repose in Lord Clive and the Select Committee in case they shall think it necessary to the interest of the Company, and we trust it will be carried into execution upon no other motive or consideration, full power and authority to suspend any of our Select Committee or Council and we do hereby further direct that such suspension be not taken off without our express leave.

42 And as in the course of the important affairs which now come under the cognizance of the Committee, many exigencies may arise that we cannot foresee in the imperfect knowledge we have at present, we permit Lord Clive on his departure from Bengal, to make such further regulations in these powers to be observed by the succeeding Select Committee, as his Lordship shall judge most for the interest of the Company.

43 Upon duly considering all circumstances, the appointment of Sir Robert Barker to the command of the Third Battalion is hereby confirmed.

44 And it is our pleasure likewise that Sir Robert Fletcher take rank of Major Alexander Champion, which we make no doubt the latter will readily acquiesce in, when he is assured at the same time that this determination is not owing to any demerit in him, but that on the contrary we have a just sense of his merit.

45 As to any other difficulties which have or may occur with respect to the rank of officers, we leave the same to your final decision, having a due regard therein to the judgment of Lord Clive.

46 Lord Clive speaks highly of the merit of Major Charles Pemble, and we are happy in having entirely the same sentiments with respect to that gentleman's abilities and character. It was on that account we directed in our letter of the 26th March last, his return to Bombay, where there is a great want of good officers, and in course he will be of signal use to the Company there, as he is to succeed Major Goun.

47 According to your desire we enclose in the packet by this vessel, fifty  
 Lre from 30 Mutiny Acts and shall by the ships to be consigned to you  
 [Sept'r ?] 1765 in the course of the ensuing season transmit a further  
 Pt 1 quantity, sufficient to supply your occasions for them.

48 Having reason to believe that many of our servants have received presents or gratuities from the Nabobs, their ministers or others, in a collusive manner, by way of exorbitant interests on moneys lent or said to be lent to them by our said servants, in order therefore to put a stop to such extortions and exactions (for in that light we see them) we do hereby order and direct that if in future any one of our servants civil or military, shall directly or indirectly demand accept or receive from any person or persons whatsoever for the loan of any sum or sums of money real or nominal in Bengal or in any



other part or province of India (excepting only such moneys as he may from time to time lend on respondentia) any kind of premium gratuity or advantage whatsoever over and above twelve per cent per annum interest such servant upon being convicted thereof let his rank or station be what it may is to be forthwith suspended from the Company's service.

49 With respect to the donation of twelve lack and a half of rupees to the navy we have given you our sentiments thereon so fully by the letters of this season that we have nothing more to add by this dispatch than if you have any further lights to throw or information to communicate thereon we shall expect to receive them by the first opportunities we must add however that Admiral Cornish and Commodore Tinker have applied to us in behalf of the navy people for our interposition, to have that sum discharged which at present we have not had time to enter into the discussion of

50 As from the apparent situation of our affairs as laid before us in the advices received by the *Admiral Steevens* we may have reason to expect you will have a much larger stock of money than may be wanted for all the services of the Company and consequently the receiving more into your treasury for remittances by bills and certificates if not limited may greatly distress us to discharge, when at the same time there will remain unemployed cash in your treasury it becomes therefore highly necessary to make the following regulations which you are strictly to observe vizt

51 You are to grant no bills on us, or to receive any money into our treasury for certificates unless you shall be actually in want of cash for carrying on our investment or to defray the civil and military expences of the Presidency or for answering draughts from Bombay or any other of our settlements or to send thither or to China or for such like occasions and in all or any of these cases, no more money must be received than is absolutely wanted for such purposes nor must the amount of bills and certificates by each ship exceed one fifth part of the sum total of such ships invoice of goods laden on board at the settlement from which it receives its dispatches for England

52 We hereby direct that the exchange from Bengal after these orders come to hand be lowered to two shillings and three pence for a current rupee to our servants civil and military and to all others to two shillings and one penny only for a current rupee

53 You are to receive no money nor grant bills to any persons not under covenants with us unless immediately wanted for the purposes above mentioned

54 No bills drawn on us must be made payable in a less space of time than 365 days after sight and we will allow on such bills an interest of the rate of three per cent per annum on the expiration of ninety days from the date of our acceptance thereof being the rate of interest which our bonds here in England bear except only to the amount of about twenty thousand pounds a year and this being an indulgence to our covenant servants for providing themselves with necessaries and for other their immediate occasions we are willing to pay them at ninety days sight but you are not to extend your draughts for so short a time of payment to a greater sum than the said twenty thousand pounds such being the amount all well by our former orders

55 Bills are not to be given or certificates granted for money received

which may belong to persons residing at any other Presidency or settlement not subordinate to Bengal unless it is much wanted

56 Neither are you to give bills or certificates to such of the Company's servants who have been dismissed or suspended for infidelity or misbehaviour, except as before excepted, namely that the money is wanted for our immediate occasions

57. Every person to whom it shall be agreed to give bills on us must before the same are signed by the Governour and Council, make an affidavit before a magistrate, that the money paid into our treasury for them is his own property, or the property of some other person whom he shall name, and the magistrate before whom the oath is made, shall sign his name at the foot of the bill or certificate so given in attestation of that act, as hath partly been the practice for many years past in consequence of the orders given in the (a) 92nd paragraph of our letter of the 3rd of February 1740 This regulation is now absolutely to extend to all bills and certificate whatsoever without regard to the exchange

(a) in the Collec-  
tion of Standing  
Orders

58 In drawing the certificates that you shall pass on us, care is to be taken that they only mention the sum of money received into our treasury, no rate of exchange or time of payment must be specified therein, indulgences in those respects are to be left to our determination here

59 The fortunes or estates acquired by our good and faithful servants may be remitted home in bills drawn upon us at two shillings and three pence for a current rupee, if the money is tendered within twelve months from the time of their departure for England, but after that period they are to have bills at only two shillings and one penny for a current rupee

60 Lord Clive is to be indulged with bills (or certificates) for the amount of the money he may receive in India for his *jaghæer* whichever way he may chuse to take

61 All monies tendered, belonging to deceased persons who were under covenants with us, must be received, if within the limitation beforementioned

62 Also the money tendered by the commanders and officers of our Europe ships so far as the produce of their private adventure extends, they taking the oath prescribed in the (a) 9th para of our letter of the 3rd February 1740

(a) in the Collec-  
tion of Standing  
Orders

63 Likewise for all money paid in on account of the produce of coral and other articles licensed by us to be exported by the traders in diamonds

64 In all and every of the beforementioned cases, particular regard must be had to the sum total of bills and certificates, that they do not exceed by each ship, one fifth part of the invoice of the goods laden thereon as already directed in a preceding paragraph, and to this we make no exception, but what may regard Lord Clive, whose full remittances must have the preference to all others

65 The treasure you shall consign from Bengal for the China investment, must go first to Fort St George early in the year as conveyances offer, so as not to have too great a risque on any one bottom, whether Europe or country ship It is our intention that the money from Fort St George should be

pretty equally divided among the whole number of ships destined from thence to China, and that care be taken for as little surplus stock as possible should be left to be put on board any ship that by accident may be in danger of losing her passage or season to Canton. Any sum may be annually sent this way not exceeding forty lacks of rupees as mentioned in a preceding paragraph.

66 We direct that all the outstanding bonds granted by our Presidency at Bengal be paid off with the first surplus money that may come into our treasury and that no more money be borrowed without absolute necessity

67 You are to send us a very succinct and exact account of the *Detrannee* of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa, subdivided under the different provinces, specifying the original rents of each division the additional charge on each the *nezzerranna* and durbar charges also the revenues arising from fines and customs on salt beetle and tobacco also the other articles of the inland trade.

68 As it is highly expedient for us to be acquainted with every particular that may lead us to form a proper judgment of the military expences at your Presidency and as we have not hitherto been furnished with every intelligence we could wish relative thereto you are to take care by the first opportunity to supply us with the following materials, together with everything else that you shall deem necessary for our further information in this matter

69 You are to send us an exact and particular account of the respective expence of a battalion of infantry a battalion of *sepoys*, a company of artillery and a company of cavalry (both Indian and European) with their several officers, surgeons &c. inserting therein the *batta* and allowances to each and also the charge of *cooleys* and general *cooleys* for one month on detachment including in the account of the cavalry the maintenance of the horses, and you are in like manner to send us an account of the same for one month in garrison.

70 The books of your Presidency not being always transmitted time enough to give us the requisite information of your annual charges, you will take care to send us by the first ship of each season a separate account of your general charges subdivided and particularized under the heads of civil military and marine to which also must be added such expence of fortifications and repairs, as may have occurred within the year

71 You are to use all the means in your power to prevent our servants and all others residing under our protection lending their money to the French Dutch or any other Europeans whatsoever and taking bills for the same on their respective Companies or others payable in Europe this being a measure productive of the greatest detriment by interfering with our investments in Bengal and procuring thereby such quantities of goods which they would not other ways have it in their power to provide the natural consequences whereof and which are sensibly felt by us are not only the reducing the prices of the good at our sales but likewise the preventing your sending us larger quantities which in your present situation we may very reasonably expect This being an affair of great consequence to the Company we therefore recommend it to your most serious attention.

72 Since we acquainted you in our letter of the 19th of February last with our apprehensions that the captains of some of our ships called at the Canary Islands principally with a view to take in illicit trade we have received

certain and well attested accounts taken from the custom house books at Thenceiffe that there were transhipped from a vessel called the *Port Royal* on board the *Prince of Wales*, Capt Burnet Abercrombie, 1100 *kintals* of iron, 600 do of steel, 600 do of lead and 12 three pounder guns Also transhipped from a vessel called the *Fanny* on board the *Fort William*, Capt Edwd Roch, 400 *kintals* of lead, 900 do of iron and 40 guns 3 pounders, so far appears by the said custom house books, but it is imagined the quantities were much larger as the manner of transshipping afforded great opportunities of collusion in order for paying duties for less than were actually shipped

73 As the said 'goods could not be received on board without the knowledge of the said Captains Burnet Abercrombie and Edwd Roch, we deem them unworthy of the Company's protection and we do therefore hereby withdraw the same, and positively direct that they be sent home by the first conveyances that offer The like must be done with respect to such of their officers if upon the strict enquiry directed to be made by our said letter, any of them are found to be concerned as proprietors in the said illicit trade

74 Upon the further recommendation of Lord Clive, we do hereby appoint Francis Gladman to be a writer on your establishment and he is to take rank next below William Bensley

75 Just as we were on the point of closing this letter, the purser of the *Earl of Middlesex* brought us the agreeable news of that ship's arrival off the start from Fort St George, but as we received no packet from your Presidency by this conveyance, we have nothing more to add to the foregoing than that

We are,

Your loving friends,

Geo Dudley / Thos Rous / John  
Stephenson / Cha Cutts / Heny  
Savage / Chistr Baron / Fredk Pigou /  
F W Barrington / Edwd Wheler /  
Luke Scrafton / E H Cruttenden /  
Charles Chambers / J Pardoe / Jos  
DuPré / Thos Saunders / George  
Cuming / John Harrison / J Purling /  
John Roberts / Peter DuCane Junr /  
George Wombwell / Rob Jones

London,  
the 17th May 1766  
[Per *Mercury*  
and overland]

#### *Memo*

Triplicate of this letter was signed by the following gentlemen the 22nd May 1766 to be send [*sic*] overland

Geo Dudley / Thos Rous / Rob Jones /  
Fred Pigou / Luke Scrafton / John  
Stephenson / E H Cruttenden / Chas  
Chambers / J Pardoe / Christ Baron /  
Geo Cuming / Chas Cutts / Jos DuPré /  
Jno Harrison / Geo Wombwell / J  
Creswicke / Jno Roberts / Edw Wheler /  
Thos Saunders / Hen Savage

## LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1766

*Request Clive to continue for another season in Bengal—end of war with Shujaud Daulah—restoration of Shah Alam—Company's right to trade duty-free in Shujaud Daulah's dominion—sentiments on the Diwani—management of Burdwan lands—corruption and rapacity among Company's servants—no Englishman to hold any land—acceptance of donations declared unlawful—claim to private trade by servants absurd—question of monopoly over necessities of life—sudden affluence of the servants undesirable—enquiry into extortions practised on the Nawabs*

OUR President and Select Committee at Fort William in Bengal.

1 On the 19th of last month we received the several packets committed to the care of Captain Griffin in which was your letter of the 30th September one from Lord Clive and a General Letter both dated the same day

2 As some of the most important affairs have fallen under your management which have ever occurred since the Company had a being it is with the utmost satisfaction we observe with what zeal and true regard to the interest of your employers, you have pursued such measures, not only with respect to the political system of the country but the arduous task of discovering and laying open to our view the infidelity rapaciousness and misbehaviour of our servants in general of all which you may be fully assured we have the highest and most grateful sense

3 As stability to your plans for a peaceable possession of our acquisitions, and a thorough reformation in our servants in general are objects of the greatest importance and in which the presence of Lord Clive is essentially necessary we made it our unanimous and earnest request that his Lordship would continue another season in Bengal and which we here again repeat in confidence and hopes of his Lordship's ready acquiescence to complete what he had laid so good a foundation for as you will observe by the accompanying triplicate of a letter we addressed his Lordship dated the 2nd instant which as the occasion was so important we sent overland for fear the *Mercury* by which you will receive this should not reach Bengal before the departure of his Lordship.

4 Although we think you have made a most unexpected progress in investigating the many new and important affairs that have come before you yet we consider what you have done as necessarily imperfect till you have had some experience of the effect of your regulations you must not therefore look on the following observations and directions as carrying any disapprobation of your conduct in general but as reflections that occur to us on the first view of affairs so totally new to us and we trust entirely to the continuance of your zealous endeavours to bring the great work to perfection

5 Before we proceed any further we would have it observed that although this letter is addressed to our President and the Select Committee by way of answer to theirs of the 20th September last yet as it contains matters of

general importance to the affairs of the Presidency, it is our meaning that the same should be laid before the President and Council and be attended to and the same regard paid to every part thereof to all intents and purposes as if it had been directed to them in the usual manner of a General Letter

6 From the sentiments we expressed in every one of our late letters, you will easily judge the great pleasure it gave us to see the war with Souja Dowla ended so conformable to our wishes. We always esteemed the power of that *Soubah* the strongest barrier we could have against the invasions of the northern powers, and of the Morattas which have so long laid desolate the northern provinces, and had the impolitic, injudicious views of our late Governor and Council been followed, and the King or Nudjeef Cawn been left in possession of Souja Dowla's country, we are convinced they would not have had weight and abilities to have supported themselves. And we must either have had their wars to maintain at that immense distance or they would have been drove back on us, and brought the war down to our frontiers or even into our own provinces. Nothing could so effectually restore that country to its former state as putting its natural prince in the full possession of his dominions. And we are equally pleased to see the care that has been taken of all those who shewed their attachment to us in the course of the war, Bulwant Sing's joining us at the time he did,<sup>1</sup> was of signal service and the stipulation in his favor was what he was justly entitled to

7 Equally politic and prudent are the concessions in favor of the King whose interest was best considered by the restoring Souja Dowla to his country,<sup>2</sup> the only *Soubah* in Indostan who is ever likely to support him in his pretensions to the empire. The revenue agreed to be paid him must be in the eyes of the Indian powers a mark of our respect to the royal blood and an acknowledgment of his right. We approve also the being guarantee for Nudjeef Cawn and finally we hope the moderation and the attention paid to all those who have espoused our interest in this war will restore our reputation in Indostan, and that the Indian powers will be convinced, no breach of treaty will ever have our sanction. We also hope the 50 lacks stipulated to be paid by Souja Dowla will be, before this reaches you, discharged and his dominions entirely evacuated by our troops and that none will remain under pretence of protection to the King's person, for that may lead to pretensions to support him in his claim to the empire, a measure quite contrary to our views being determined to make the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orixia the utmost bounds of our political views or possessions

8 The article in the treaty with Souja Dowla, stipulating a trade duty free through his dominions we direct to be confined solely to the Company's trade, and even in that sense of it, we mean only if his dominions produce any goods fit for the European markets or if it can be made the means of extending our trade in the woollen manufactures or any other European goods

9 We come now to consider the great and important affair of the *Dewanee* on which we shall give you our sentiments with every objection that occurs to us

10 When we consider that the barrier of the country government was entirely broke down and every Englishman throughout the country armed

with an authority that owned no superior and exercising his power to the oppression of the helpless natives who knew not whom to obey at such a crisis we cannot hesitate to approve your obtaining the *Deewanee* for the Company

11 When we look back to the system that Lord Clive and the gentlemen of the Select Committee found established, it presents to us a *Soubah* disarmed with a revenue of almost two millions sterling (for so much seems to have been left exclusive of our demands on him) at the mercy of our servants who had adopted an unheard of ruinous principle of an interest distinct from the Company This principle shewed itself in laying their hands upon every thing they did not deem the Company's property

12 In the province of Burdwan the Resident and his Council took an annual stipend of near Rs. 80 000 per annum from the Rajah in addition to the Company's salary This stands on the Burdwan accounts, and we fear was not the whole for we apprehend it went further and that they carried this pernicious principle even to the sharing with the Rajah of all he collected beyond the stipulated *mulgaurry* or land revenue overlooking the point of duty to the Company to whom properly everything belonged that was not necessary for the Rajah's support. It has been the principle too on which our servants falsely endeavored to gloss over the crime of their proceedings on the accession of the present *Soubah* and we fear would have been soon extended to the grasping the greatest share of that part of the Nabob's revenues which was not allotted to the Company in short this principle was directly undermining the whole fabric for whilst the Company were sinking under the burthen of the war our servants were enriching themselves from those very funds that ought to have supported the war But to Lord Clive and our Select Committee we owe that the Company are at last considered as principals in the advantages as well as dangers.

13 We must now turn our attention to our acquisitions as permanent as human wisdom can make them This permanency we apprehend can be found only in the simplicity of the execution We observe the account you give of the office and power of the King's *Deewan* in former times was "the collecting of all the Revenues and after defraying the Expences of the Army and allowing sufficient Fund for the support of the Nizam to remit the remainder to Delhi" This description of it is not the office we wish to execute The experience we have already had in the province of Burdwan convinces us how unfit an Englishman is to conduct the collection of the revenues and follow the subtle native through all his arts to conceal the real value of his country to perplex and to elude the payments We therefore entirely approve of your preserving the ancient form of government in the upholding the dignity of the *Soubah*

14 We conceive the office of *Deewan* should be exercised only in superintending the collection and disposal of the revenues which office though vested in the Company should officially be executed by our Resident at the Durbar under the controul of the Governor and Select Committee the ordinary bounds of which controul should extend to nothing beyond the superintending the collection of the revenues and the receiving the money from the Nabob's treasury to that of the *deewanah* or the Company And this we conceive to be neither difficult nor complicated for at the annual *poonah* the government







settled with each zemindar his monthly payment for the ensuing year, so the monthly payment of the whole from the Nabob's *Dewan* is but the total of the monthly payment of each zemindar, which must be strictly kept up, and if deficient, the Company must trace what particular province, rajah or zemindar has fallen short in his monthly payments or if it is necessary to extend the power further, let the annual *poonah* by which we mean the time when every land holder makes his agreement for the ensuing year be made with the consent of the *Dewan* or Company. This we conceive to be the whole office of the *Dewanny*. The administration of justice, the appointment to offices, zemindarries, in short, whatever comes under the denomination of civil administration, we understand, is to remain in the hands of the Nabob or his ministers.

15 The Resident at the Durbar being constantly on the spot cannot be long a stranger to any abuses in the government and is always armed with power to remedy them. It will be his duty to stand between the administration and the encroachments always to be apprehended from the agents of the Company's servants which must first be known to him, and we rely on his fidelity to the Company to check all such encroachments and to prevent the oppression of the natives. We gave you our sentiments on the office of Resident in our letter of the 24th December last which were what we thought suitable to the office as it then stood but now it has become of so much more importance, we shall leave the regulating of it to you and desire you will be very explicit on the subject and shall only here fling out some few thoughts upon it.

16 We would have his correspondence to be carried on with the Select Committee through the channel of the President. He should keep a diary of all his transactions. His correspondence with the natives must be publicly conducted. Copies of all his letters, sent and received, be transmitted monthly to the Presidency with duplicates and triplicates to be transmitted home in our general packet by every ship.

17 In the 39th paragraph of our General Letter of the 24th December last, we expressed our disapprobation of continuing a chief and council at Burdwan. We see you have already adopted that sentiment in withdrawing that residency. We have been very full in our late letters on the subject of the Burdwan country and Mr Verelst's letter of the 13th September gives us still more insight into the affairs of that province and as it has been from the transactions of that province that we have acquired the most experience of the nature of the collections of the revenues, we shall give you such reflexions as occur to us on the subject in general and on this province in particular. We observe that when we first took possession of the grant from Jaffier Ali Khan of the Calcutta lands, we immediately turned on all those men who stood between the government and the cultivator and put the farm of the lands up to public sale in which we make no doubt our servants acted for our interest, according to the best of their judgment, but it appears to have been deemed by the natives an act of oppression and contrary to the customs of Indostan, however, it was then a partial evil confined to a small tract of country, and the Company had this to plead in their defence, that their whole territory lying near Calcutta could easily be kept under the general administration of the Presidency and this might be very justifiable and very

proper for so limited an object, but when large provinces fall under our government such as Burdwan, we do not think the same conduct should have been observed but you should have made the best terms you could with the rajah for the *mulgazerry*, or land revenues particular local circumstances might have required deviations from the general rule, such as the incapacity of the rajah which might have been remedied by putting proper ministers about him but our servants should not have interfered in the collections or civil administrations and experience has convinced us they have either erred in judgment or their duty to the Company. For after all the various experiments of putting the farms up to public sale by which means many families seem to have been utterly ruined of keeping lands in the hands of the Company which you call *coss* and the various methods that have been tried we find the collections brought to the Company's credit for the year 1764 are five lacks less than what were paid in Aliverdi Cawn's time in 1752. There is a passage in Mr Verelst's letter very alarming and which requires a full explanation "I was greatly surprized to find on my arrival there that it had been again exposed to a Public Sale, however Purchasers had been only found for about 22 lacks, so great was the Prejudice taken at the former and the whole of that very considerably under the *jumneabundy* of 1169 excepting the farms lately held by Messrs. Johnstone, Hay and Bolts on which a great advance was bid"

18 We have on a former occasion in our letter of the 13th March 1761 paragraph 57 permitted our servants to bid at the public sale of the Calcutta lands but we could not conceive such an indulgence could ever be construed to admit servants employed in the collection of the revenues of a province to select out the most profitable lands for themselves for such is the light in which this transaction appears to us, and it is one more striking proof of the general corruption with which all ranks were tainted and of the ill use that has been made of every indulgence. We direct a strict scrutiny into this affair and if it proves true that you will make a proper example of the offenders by dismissing them our service

19 This transaction convinces us of the necessity of shutting the door to abuses and we therefore positively order that no covenanted servant or Englishman residing under our protection shall be suffered to hold any land for his own account directly or indirectly in his own name or that of others or to be concerned in any farms or revenues whatsoever

20 In the 30th paragraph of our letter of the 19th February last we expressed our surprize that the covenants were not executed nor any notice taken of them judge then what we feel on learning from Mr Leicester's minute on Consultation 11th June 1765 that they never were intended to be executed and we presume he speaks not only his own sentiments but the sentiments of his colleagues when he says the covenants were rather the effects of party than the cool sentiments of his masters and that it was probable parties would unite in abolishing covenants that could only injure individuals and do the Company no service. If our servants presume thus to call in question our most direct and positive orders enforced too by the general voice of the whole body of proprietors it is time for us to exert the authority vested in us and to do justice to the injured natives to our own honor and to the national character

21 The proceedings of the Select Committee have laid open to us a most complicated scene of corruption in which we have the unhappiness to see most of our principal servants involved. Gentlemen who have served us in the highest offices, in whom we placed the greatest confidence and to whom we had given many marks of our favour, yet neither the ties of honor nor gratitude, could controul that unbounded thirst after riches that seems to have prevailed almost over the whole settlement and threatened a total dissolution of all government. The principle on which these gentlemen justify themselves seems to be that donations or free gifts are lawful when no interest of the Company is sacrificed to obtain them.

22 We do not admit that donations are in any case lawful without our consent and approbation. Our governors and council in our settlements abroad are instructed with the command of our troops and with all our influence and authority to employ them solely for the honor and advantage of the Company, if they pervert the power thus trusted with them for the public good, to their own private advantage, they are undoubtedly guilty of a breach of that trust.

23 Neither can we admit that the vast sums obtained on this occasion were by any means free gifts, the dependant situation of the *Subah* is itself a refutation of the plea and his letter to Lord Clive and the Select Committee with the concurrent testimonies of the seals and Mahmud Reza Cawn<sup>4</sup> together with the depositions of the several people examined on this matter amount to the clearest proofs that they are exacted from the several parties as the terms of the protection granted them and lastly we shall say a word or two to what those gentlemen vainly imagine makes strong in their defence that no interest was sacrificed to obtain them.

24 The Company were engaged in a war which as far as we can judge cost them from ten to twelve lacks per month, for which the Nabob had stipulated to pay no more than five lacks per month and even that fell in arrears, the Nabob was at this time pressed for payment of the remaining thirty lacks for restitution besides other unlawful demands on him. It cannot surely be pleaded that under these circumstances of the *Soubah* and the Company no interest of the Company was sacrificed to obtain them. We think these gentlemen sacrificed their own honor, the interest and honor of the Company and of the nation.

25 We are sorry to see some of the gentlemen have thought fit to justify their breach of trust by a breach of orders, in pleading the covenants were not executed, therefore not obligatory. But so totally do we differ from them that we think them not only guilty of a breach of those particular covenants, but also of the general covenants which were entered into before these last were found so necessary.

26 The cavils and opposition of several of the members of the Council to the powers and conduct of you our Select Committee, appear most evidently to have been calculated to screen and obstruct the enquiry into and detection of their misbehaviour, but we are satisfied you have had the real interest of the Company constantly in your view, in all your researches into the general corruption and rapacity of our servants with the spirit and disinterestedness which do you honor and merit our approbation.

27 We are sensible that the security of our valuable possessions will

## LETTER FROM COURT

depend upon the keeping up our military establishment, in the most effectual manner and you will observe how attentive we have been to this important object by the number of recruits sent out by the ships of the last and present season. The great mortality which we have too sensibly felt in ships which go from hence late deters us from attempting to make any addition to those sent you this season but you may depend upon your recommendation for having a sufficient supply by the ships of next season especially by the early ones.

28 It is with real pleasure we observe the good effects of regimenting our troops by a beginning of discipline, subordination and economy which we make no doubt you will keep up by every prudent measure that can conduce thereto and we flatter ourselves you have succeeded in your endeavors for reducing our heavy military expences and in particular for striking off half the double *batta* to put the troops upon the same footing as at Fort St. George an extravagant expense which we have so frequently and hitherto unsuccessfully complained of.

29 You will observe for these two seasons past we have been very attentive to the sending you large quantities of small arms and we shall be particularly careful to comply with your recommendations on this head by the ships of the following season and shall have a due regard to what you mention with respect to the quality. We shall endeavour at the same time to send you three or four persons well versed in the iron foundry business as we are of opinion they will be of great use in the casting of shot and shells and other services of that kind.

30 With respect to the illicit importation of small arms by the commanders of our ships and others a practice so pernicious and detrimental to the Company you will observe through the whole tenour of our proceedings as mentioned in our several letters of this season, what pains we have taken not only to prevent illicit trade in general but this in particular it will therefore rest with you and the Council by effectually carrying our orders into execution to put a stop to the liberties which have been so unwarrantably taken and which we are determined to suppress by the most rigorous and exemplary punishment of the offenders.

31 We have in all our letters from the first knowledge we had of our servants being engaged in the inland trade strongly discountenanced and forbid it. We have always treated it as a breach of our orders a violation of the *phirmaund* and in a great measure the cause of the late wars. The amazing sums demanded for restitution in respect of losses sustained in this trade have opened our eyes to the vast extent to which it has been carried and which have pervaded all parts of the Nabob's dominions have convinced us that a monopoly of the necessaries of life in any hands whatever more especially in the hands of the English who are possessed of such an overruling influence is liable to the greatest abuses.

32 Much has been urged by our servants at different times in favour of the right to this trade which we have always treated as a *monopoly* claim. The words of the *phirmaund* are "Whatever goods the English Company shall bring or carry etc. are duty free."

33 To suppose that the Court of Delhi could mean by these words a monopoly of the necessaries of life over their own subjects is such an absurdity that we shall not lose time or words in trying to refute it. Such a construction seems never to have been thought of till the year 1762. We do not find that Lord Clive or the gentlemen who conducted our affairs at the time of the treaty with Mir Jaffier in 1757, conceived they had acquired by those treaties any one additional privilege of trade. We had indeed in the year 1762 some private intimations of our servants being engaged in such a trade which we took notice of in our letter of the 19th February 1762, to which no reply was made, but there appeared nothing of it in our records till a letter from the Nabob Cossim Ali in Consultation 18th October 1762 wherein he complains of the conduct of the Company's servants at Dacca in forcing the country merchants to take tobacco and other things above the market price. Soon after, the debates on the Mongheer treaty<sup>s</sup> explain to us that the English had been concerned in this trade for some years and indeed three years possession had taught them to look on it as a matter of right and vindicate as such in their negotiations with Cossim Ali Cawn.

34 As soon as it came to our knowledge, we strictly forbid it under date the 18th February 1764 which our Governor and Council took into consideration the 17th October though they presumed at the same time to carry it on in defiance of those orders.

35 You now desire our concurrence in it for the advantage of the Company and of the Company's servants.

36 With respect to the Company, it is neither consistent with their honor nor their dignity, to promote such an exclusive trade as it is now more immediately our interest and duty to protect and cherish the inhabitants and to give them no occasion to look on every Englishman as their national enemy, a sentiment we think such a monopoly would necessarily suggest. We cannot therefore approve the plan you have sent us for trading in salt, beetle nut, and tobacco or admit of this trade in any shape whatever and do hereby confirm our former orders for its entire abolition and we must here observe to you that we continue in the same opinion which you find expressed in our letters of the 24th December and 19th February last that every one concerned in this trade even before receipt of our letter 1st June 1769 [1764] has been guilty of a breach of his covenants.

37 The opinions of the first lawyers in this kingdom confirm our sentiments and whenever we receive the list of the claims for restitution, we shall then with precision know whom we are to call to account for these illicit practices, we are fully sensible that these innovations and illegal traffic laid the foundation of all the bloodshed, massacres and confusion which have happened of late years, we cannot suffer ourselves to indulge a thought towards the continuance of them upon any conditions whatsoever, no regulations can in our opinions be formed that can be effectual to prevent the like consequences which we have seen. We consider it too as disgraceful and below the dignity of our present situation to allow of such a monopoly and were we to allow of it under any restrictions, we should consider ourselves as assenting and subscribing to all the mischiefs which Bengal has presented to us for these four years past. At the same time, we don't mean that the

## LETTER FROM COURT

ancient duties upon these commodities which constitute part of the revenue of Bengal should be abolished but we leave the adjustment of those duties to your judgment and consideration and here we must enjoin you to have particular regard and attention to the good of the natives whose interest and welfare are now become our primary care and we earnestly recommend it to you that you take the most effectual methods to prevent these great necessities of life from being monopolized by the rich and great amongst themselves and by that means the poor and indigent becoming liable to those grievances and exactions which we mean to prevent our own people from being guilty of

38 With respect to the advantages of the Company's servants we would have gentlemen look back to any period before the capture of Calcutta and turn their attention to our other settlements they will then find our service never did, nor ever was meant to afford sudden affluence or immense fortune to every man employed therein. A moderate independence was the reward of many years service succession was slow and the rank of counsellor was rarely attained before the age of thirty but donations first and then this inland trade shortened the path to riches. Donations became the reserved motives for revolutions in the government and the monopolies of the necessities of life were founded on its ruin. We do not mean by this to bring back the state of our service precisely to its former limits. We are very sensible that more important objects now pass under the consideration of our senior servants which require a greater exertion of their abilities but then we would have the advantages confined to the higher class of our servants. We would have them the reward of long and faithful services. If our younger servants obtain an earlier independency they become impatient of controul and we lose the benefit of their services when their riper years enable them to be the most useful to us and stations of the highest importance fall to young men who have neither judgment nor experience to conduct them.

39 We are willing to give our servants all the reasonable encouragement in our power for the cheerful and faithful discharge of their duty but as at present we are very imperfectly acquainted with the amount of our revenues and in a state of uncertainty as to their stability supposing also your excellencies will give us some further insight therein as well as into the merit or demerit of our servants and considering the lateness of the season confines us to so short a time to prepare for this dispatch we cannot possibly in such a hurry form a plan for the encouragement of our servants but must defer the same until the next dispatch which we intend shall be very early in the season in the meantime you may rest assured we shall then give such directions which we make no doubt will prove satisfactory both to our civil and military servants

40 As we have a high sense of General Carnac's services we shall by the same dispatch send our sentiments and directions upon the King's request with regard to the present His Majesty intended for him it being an affair of too much importance for us to determine upon in so short a time as this dispatch affords us

41 We send you herewith the opinions of His Majesty's Attorneys General and Solicitor General and also of our Counsel Mr Sayer respecting the measures to be taken with our servant in Bengal & their discharge

to the resolution of the General Court and of our orders in consequence of it

42 As much depends upon the practice of the Mayor's Court at Calcutta, we can only recommend it to you to carry this opinion into execution, so far as the usage of that Court will admit, and we leave it to you to make the representation (recommended in the opinion) to the Nabob and his ministers, of the detestation in which we hold the behaviour of our servants towards them, in respect to the sums of money which were either presented by or extorted from them, and of our resolution to bring the offenders to justice as far as lies in our power

43 We do not mean, however, to circumscribe ourselves to the investigation only of what passed upon raising the present Nabob to the *subahship*, we give you full powers and require from you that you will fully inquire into the abuses and extortions practised upon the revolution when Meer Jaffier was deposed and Cossim Ali Cawn made Nabob of Bengal in his stead

44 We direct you to enter into a full discussion of that dark affair upon the fullest and most explicit evidence of living witnesses which you are now able to procure and that you will transmit their depositions, duly authenticated together with your own observations after a thorough investigation of the business to us by the first opportunity in order that we may give to the Indian powers a further testimony of our abhorrence and detestation of the ill usage they have received from our servants

45 With respect to the legal proceedings, upon the present occasion, we shall only observe as regarding Mr Spencer and Mr Johnstone who are absent, that whatever effects they have in our custody in Bengal, you will secure and detain, and as one of those gentlemen is already here, and the other will probably soon be in England, we shall follow the directions of our council in the prosecutions against them in His Majesty's courts here, but we hope and expect that you will furnish us with all such further material evidence as you have been able to collect, concerning their behaviour in these matters since your last advices

46 In these prosecutions we depend on that justice from the Mayor's Court which the nature of our cause deserves, the fullest evidence must be laid before them to prove the facts with which the defendants will be charged and though we hope effectual decrees may be obtained in that court, yet should it prove otherwise, we desire, if the ultimate decisions should come to His Majesty by appeal, the evidence will be as circumstantial and complete in support of our case, both on principles of law and equity, as the nature of the different cases will admit of [*sic*], and in order to this all collateral evidence though perhaps only circumstantial to the fact to be proved, we desire may not be disregarded or omitted

47 The former covenants being the same in all respects as have been for a course of years executed by our civil servants, reference to any one of them is sufficient in order to set forth the substance of them in the legal proceedings, but we shall send you herewith authentic copies of such of them as we find executed here by any of our servants, who may be made defendants to these suits



48. You will observe by the General Letter to the President and Council accompanying this the very ample powers we have entrusted you with for preserving peace tranquility discipline, harmony good order and subordination in Bengal powers which we doubt not you will make use of in such a manner as will in all circumstances be most for the Company's interest as well as reflect honor upon yourselves.

qt. [sic] *General Concluding Para*

49 For these two seasons past we have taken up and observed upon so many material points and given such directions even to the anticipation of much of what is contained in the advices received per the *Admiral Stevens* that instead of entering into any further discussions which the short time limited for this dispatch will not admit of we refer to us rules of conduct for the Select Committee the President and Council and whomsoever else it may concern

We are

Your loving friends

Geo Dudley / Thos. Rous / John  
Stephenson/Chas. Cutts/Henry Savage/  
Christ Baron/Fredk. Pigou/F W  
Barrington / Edwd. Wheeler / Luke  
Serafton / E. H. Cruttenden / Charles  
Chambers / J Pardoe / Jos. DuPre /  
Thos Saunders / Geo. Cuming / John  
Harrison / J Purling / John Roberts /  
Peter DuCane Junr /George Wombwell/  
Rob Jones.

London

17th May 1766.

[Per *Mercury* and overland]

*Memo*

Triplicate of this letter was signed by the following gentlemen the 22nd May 1766 to be sent overland

Geo. Dudley / Thos. Rous / Rob Jones /  
Fredk. Pigou / Luke Serafton / John  
Stephenson / E. H. Cruttenden /  
Charles Chambers / J Pardoe / Christ  
Baron / George Cuming / Chas. Cutts /  
Jos. DuPre / Jno. Harrison / Geo.  
Wombwell / J Creswicke / Jno.  
Roberts / Edwd. Wheeler / Thos. Saun-  
ders / Henry Savage

## LETTER DATED 17 MAY 1766

*Thank Clive for his services—condemn impolitic war with Shujaud-Daulah and corruption among servants—monopoly of inland trade to be avoided—request Clive to continue for another year in India.*

My Lord,

1 We have received your Lordship's letter of the 30th September last which with the letter from the Select Committee and their proceedings have given us a clear view of the state in which your Lordship found our affairs on your arrival, and the state in which they were, at the time of the said advices

2 When we consider the penetration with which your Lordship at once discerned our true interest in every branch, the rapidity with which you restored peace, order and tranquillity, and the unbiassed integrity that has governed all your actions we must congratulate your Lordship on being the happy instrument of such extensive blessings to those countries And you have our sincerest thanks for the great and important advantages thereby obtained for the Company

3 We have the strongest sense of the deplorable state to which our affairs were on the point of being reduced from the corruption and rapacity of our servants, and the universal depravity of manners throughout the settlement, we agree entirely with your Lordship that the train our affairs were then in would in a very few months have brought us to a most dangerous situation

4 The war in which we were so impolitically engaged against Souja Dowla, was carrying on at such an immense loss to the Company, as would in a short space have sunk a great part of our capital and the funds that ought to have been destined to the support of that war, were perverted to the baneful purpose of corrupting our servants Nor was this the only fatal consequence of this war ruin to the Company might have sprung even from our success, for either the King unable to maintain himself would have been drove back on the Bengal provinces or if he had been successful through our assistance the venality or ambition of our servants might have urged them on to have marched our forces with him to Delhi Your Lordship and the Select Committee have happily relieved us from these apprehensions and put a period to the war and all such wild projects by restoring Soujah Dowla to his dominions

5 Your Lordship justly observes our danger from within was yet greater than that from without The general relaxation of all discipline and obedience of both military and civil [*sic*] was hastily tending to a dissolution of all government The quick progress of private fortunes was big with very alarming consequences, which we do not dwell on, as you have expressed yourself so fully sensible of them We hold the means by which they were obtained in every sense unlawful

6 Our letter to the Select Committee expresses our sentiments of what has been obtained by way of donations, and to that we must add, that we think the vast fortunes acquired in the inland trade have been obtained by

a scene of the most tyrannic and oppressive conduct that ever was known in any age or country We have been uniform in our sentiments and orders on this subject from the first knowledge we had of it and your Lordship will not therefore wonder that after the fatal experience we have had of the violent abuses committed in this trade that we could not be brought to approve it even in the limited and regulated manner with which it comes to us in the plan laid down in the Committee's proceedings. We agree in opinion with your Lordship on the propriety of holding out such advantages to our chief servants civil and military as may open to them the means of honorably acquiring a competency in our service but the difficulty of the subject and the short time we have at present to consider of it have obliged us to defer giving our sentiments and directions thereupon until the next dispatch.

7 For the same reasons your Lordship will observe by our letter to the Select Committee that we are under the necessity of postponing the consideration of the present intended for General Carnac<sup>1</sup> by the King but by the next dispatch your Lordship may be assured we shall have a due regard therein to your Lordship's recommendations and his particular merit.

8 As the inland trade has been abolished principally with a view to the encouragement of the natives we hope your Lordship will find the means to prevent its becoming a monopoly in any hands but more particularly in the hands of any powerful native from whom the poor might suffer those very inconveniences for the prevention of which we have forbid our servants to trade in it and have relinquished those advantages that we ourselves might make by such a monopoly

9 We have had too much occasion to remark the tyrannic and oppressive conduct of all European agents who have got away from under the eye of the Presidency and we wish your Lordship would make it an object of your consideration how to confine the said Europeans as much as possible to the Presidency and to those subordinates where the largeness of the investment may require it to be conducted by covenant servants preferable to *gomastahs*

10 We have not at present time to enter into the thorough examination of what your Lordship proposes respecting the establishing of rank and precedence between our civil and military servants. In our letter of the 24th December we determined that the President and Council might delegate their authority to any civil servant they pleased and every military officer be his rank what it might should pay the same obedience to the orders of such civil servant as to those of the President and Council It is not meant however that such civil servant is to controul the military officer in the execution of military operations which is his proper department

11 We have the most perfect sense of your Lordship's disinterestedness in every part of your conduct and we shall not fail to represent this to the proprietors and shall at the same time inform them of the many great advantages your Lordship has obtained for this Company but we fear my Lord past experience will teach them as it does us that the permanency [*sic*] of those advantages will depend much on your Lordship's continuing in India till you have seen the regulations firmly established for the conducting these important affairs another year's experience and peaceable enjoyment of our acquisitions might fix them on a basis that would give hopes they may be a lasting

they are great. And there is no doubt, my Lord, but the general voice of the Proprietors, indeed we may say of every man who wishes well to his country, will be to join in our request that your Lordship will continue another year in India. We are very sensible of the sacrifice we ask your Lordship to make in desiring your continuance another year in Bengal after the great services you have rendered the Company and the difficulties you have passed through in accomplishing them under circumstances in which your own example has been the principal means of restraining the general rapaciousness and corruption which had brought our affairs so near the brink of ruin. These services, my Lord, deserve more than verbal acknowledgments and we have no doubt that the Proprietors will concur with us in opinion that some solid and permanent retribution adequate to your great merits should crown your Lordship's labours and success.

We are,

Your Lordship's loving friends,

Edwd Wheler / Luke Scrafton / E H  
 Cluttenden / Chas Chambers / J  
 Pardoe / Jos DuPré / Thos Saunders /  
 Chas Cutts / Henry Savage / Chrstr  
 Baron / F W Barrington / John  
 Harrison / J Purling / J Roberts / Peter  
 Ducane Jr / Geo Wombwell / Rob  
 Jones / Geo Cuming / Geo Dudley /  
 Thos Rous / John Stephenson / Fredk  
 Pigou

London  
 17th May 1766  
 [Overland]

25

LETTER DATED 23 MAY 1766

TO the Right Hon'ble Lord Clive &c &c

My Lord and Gentlemen,

[1] I have it in command from the Court of Directors to acquaint you that the *Mercury* snow sailed from Portsmouth on the 20th instant and as she had a fine outset, it is hoped she will reach Bengal agreeable to the Courts wishes that the very material dispatches she conveys may come to the hands of Lord Clive in good time, but least any accident should happen to the *Mercury*, duplicates of the several letters by her are now sent you overland by way of Aleppo and Bussorah to be forwarded from thence with the utmost dispatch

[2] The *Osterley* Captain Fredk Vincent which sailed from the Downes for Bombay on the 17th March last proving very leaky, bore into Cadiz to refit

where she arrived on or about the 3rd of April and Captain Vincent advises he should be ready to proceed on his voyage by the 27th or 28th of the same month.

I am with great respect,

My Lord and Gentlemen

Your most obedient and most humble servant,

R. J

Secretary

East India House  
London 23rd May 1766  
[Overland]

26

LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1766

*Shipping news—illicit trade—council of supercargoes for managing Company's affairs in China—question of revival of investment through dadni merchants—faulty construction of the New Fort at Calcutta—reaction of the servants at Select Committee's sending for four civilians for assistance from Fort St George—consideration of Indian affairs in Parliament—inconvenience caused by remittances by Company's servants—limits prescribed for the amount of drafts upon the Court—preference in grant of certificates to be given to civil and military servants and particularly to Clive for his jagir—fund for discharge of arrears of navy claims*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal

1 Our last letter to your Presidency went in duplicate by the *Mercury* snow and overland under date of the 17th of May last a triplicate thereof is enclosed in this ship's packet.

2 Since the date of that letter your General Letter of the 29th January with a letter from your Select Committee of the 31st January and one from Lord Clive of the 1st February last have come to our hands by the ship *Grenville*

3 We write to the Select Committee by this conveyance upon several matters of general importance to our interests at your Presidency the orders and instructions contained in the said letter are to be obeyed by you as fully and effectually as if they were inserted in these our general advices. This however is not at all to lessen or abate in any respect the powers with which we have invested our said Committee

4 We have the satisfaction of informing you that since our last advices the following ships have safely imported to us, the *Salisbury* and *Dutton* from China on the 10th of June the *Admiral P. Cock* *Earl of Elgin* and *Duke of Richmond* from that place the 14th and 16th of the same month the *Tallot* *Duke of Gloucester* *York* *Thames* and *Fisew* also from China the 7th 10th

14th, 15th and 16th July and the *Ankerwyke* also from China the 3rd August, the *Grenville* from Bengal the 18th, the *Hoisendon* and *Royal Captain* from China the 23rd and 26th August, the *Kent* from Bengal the 13th, the *True Briton* from Bombay the 15th, the *Grosvenor* from China and Bencoolen the 16th September, the *Tilbury* from China the 8th, the *Hardwicke* and *Clive* from Bombay on the 22nd and 23rd October, and the *Pacifick* from Bengal and Fort St George on the 18th of that month at Corke

5 But for a more particular account of the arrival and departure of our shipping, you are referred to the lists we now send as usual

6 We acquainted you in our letter of the 17th of May last that the Secret Committee for the current year are George Dudley Esqr, Chairman of the Court, Thomas Rous Esqr, Deputy Chairman with Charles Cutts, Robert Jones and Henry Savage Esquires, they are invested with the usual powers for giving such directions as they shall see fit for the safety of our outward and homeward bound ships, such orders therefore as in consequence they or any three of them shall give are by the persons to whom the same shall be addressed to meet with all due obedience

7 The ship *Hector* being now on her departure, we embrace this first opportunity of acquainting you with some general informations and directions and making the necessary observations upon your advices received this season, and

### *First of shipping*

8 We have this season taken up on freight the undernamed ships, those for China at twenty shillings a ton less and the ships for all other parts at twenty shillings a ton more than last season. The terms and conditions in other respects are the same as were agreed on for the ships taken up in 1765. The ships of this year are each let for 499 tons and carry men and guns answerable thereto as will appear by the respective charterparties, their consignments and intended times of departure are as follow *vizt*

<i>Ships</i>	<i>Commanders</i>	<i>Consignments</i>	<i>Times proposed for dispatch</i>
<i>Hector</i>	John Williams	Coast and Bay	under dispatch
<i>Latham</i>	James Moffatt	Madeira and Coast and China	} end of November
<i>Lord Holland</i>	Fasham Nairne	Canaries and Coast and Bay	
<i>Northumberland</i>	John Mitford	St Helena and China	
<i>Earl of Middlesex</i>	John Hasell	St Helena and Bencoolen	

<i>Ships</i>	<i>Commanders</i>	<i>Consignments</i>	<i>Times proposed for dispatch</i>
<i>Earl of Lincoln</i>	Peter Hardwicke	Coast and China	middle of December
<i>Houghton</i>	William Smith	do	
<i>London</i>	Thomas Motley	do	
<i>Triton</i>	William Elphinstone	do	
<i>British King</i>	Richard William son	Bencoolen and China	middle of January
<i>Calcutta</i>	George Thomson	Madeira and Coast and Bay	
<i>Norfolk</i>	John Sandys	do do	
<i>Lord Clive</i>	Barnaby Bartlett	China	
<i>Vansittart</i>	Roger Fish Palmer	do	end of January
<i>Egmont</i>	Charles Mears	Coast and Bay	
<i>Northington</i>	John Sealy	do	
<i>Admiral Pocock</i>	Thomas Riddell	do	
<i>Earl of Elgin</i>	Thomas Cooke	do	middle of February
<i>Worcester</i>	Richard Hall	Madeira and Bombay	
<i>Lord Mansfield</i>	Alexander Macleod	Fort St George Bombay and China	
<i>Bute</i>	Patrick Maitland	do do and Mocha	
[       ]	Arthur Morris	Fort St George and Bombay	beginning of March
<i>Europa</i>	Henry Hinde Pelly	do do	
[       ]	Benjamin Hooke	Bombay	

9. The very large indents received from your Presidency for all kinds of military stores have laid us under the necessity of consigning so many ships to Coast and Bay this year and the ships *Admiral Pocock* and *Earl of Elgin* mentioned in the foregoing list were taken up in addition to the number first intended merely to comply with your pressing demands.

10. You will observe the *Hector's* consignment is for Bengal we have nevertheless directed Captain Williams to proceed with all dispatch first to Fort St George to deliver the packet and such consignments as he may have for that Presidency and that they may there disembark such of the military as they shall have occasion for if they should be more wanted there than with you on this service. We have directed them next to take a moment's time and to forward the *Hector* with all speed to Fort William.

11. The Presidency of Fort St George are charged to see that if it shall appear necessary for our interest they are not only to continue the transportation of the said recruits for Bengal but also to procure them with as many more as may be necessary for their purpose and the *Hector* can convey this business to be performed with all possible dispatch.

12 The ships, *Lord Mansfield* and *Bute*, mentioned in the preceding list are to continue in India till early in the year 1768, under the direction of the President and Council of Bombay, and are then to be dispatched, the *Lord Mansfield* for China with a cargo proper for the Canton market, and the *Bute* to Mocha with a cargo sufficient for the purchase of a loading of coffee, both ships to be returned home, the one from China and the other from Mocha

13 As we shall depend upon one ship's proceeding from Bombay to Mocha as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, in case therefore the *Bute* shall be prevented by unavoidable and unforeseen accidents from performing the said voyages, under such circumstances, we shall give directions that some other ship is to be sent in her room, but in case of any accident happening to the *Lord Mansfield*, no other ship is to be sent to China in her stead, as it may be the means of distressing our Presidencies for shipping to bring home the large investments we may reasonably expect especially from Fort St George and Bengal, however, if that should not be the case and rather than any ship should lay unemployed, another ship is to be sent from Bombay to China in lieu of the *Lord Mansfield*

14 You will observe by the foregoing destination of our shipping that the *Lord Mansfield*, *Bute*, *Europa*, and new ship, Captain Morris, are ordered to call first at Fort St George, which is with no other design than to assist in carrying out the military recruits intended for the service of our Fort St George and Fort William Presidencies. When they are landed therefore at Fort St George, we give orders to the President and Council there to forward the said ships immediately to Bombay

15 It has been our constant recommendation for our several Presidencies mutually to concert the necessary plans for the returning the several ships intended to be laden home the same season of their arrival in India, this will be materially necessary at this time, as there is great reason to believe that even the eight Coast and Bay ships mentioned in the list of destination will not be sufficient to bring home those investments. If that shall be the case, you will take care in time to settle measures with the Presidency of Bombay for having one or two of the ships destined thither this season for that service as the cargoes of the Coast and Bay ships are much more valuable and consequently more interesting to the Company than those from Bombay can possibly be

16 However, as before observed the four Bombay ships which are to call first at Fort St George are to be forwarded thither as directed, and if the President and Council there are informed the Presidency at Bombay is in real want of troops, they are to send such a supply by the said ships as may be necessary and order them to be landed at Tellicherry or elsewhere on the Mallabar Coast where they may be most wanted

17 If one of the Bombay ships is to assist in bringing home the Fort St George or Bengal investment, the preference is to be given to the new ship, Captain Morris, and we give our orders to the President and Council at Bombay to send her accordingly, which we hope will be in time for a proportion of the Fort St George investment and they and you are to concert the necessary measures accordingly



18 In general, as you well know the importance of the early arrival of our ships in England from the several parts of India we recommend every practicable measure to be pursued for effecting the same.

19 Having now modelled the instructions to the commanders of the ships in our service you will receive herewith copies thereof for your information that care may be taken so far as depends upon you that they pay due obedience thereto

20 The President and Council at Fort St. George having represented to us that the long stay and disembarking the recruits from our outward bound ships at Joanna<sup>1</sup> has been very prejudicial to their healths and that the shipping which have only stopped there for a short time proved very healthy the captains have it recommended to them to put in the Cape for refreshments in preference to all other places if the season will admit of it and are enjoined to avoid Joanna but on being indispensibly obliged to stop there they are required to remain no longer than shall be absolutely necessary for taking in wood water and provisions and on no account to land any of the men if it can possibly be avoided yet if the disembarking them cannot be dispensed with the commanders are positively charged not to suffer them to lay ashore at night that prejudice and danger to the healths of the recruits may be prevented. We give you this information that if any of the ships for your Presidency touch at Joanna you are to call upon the captains for their reasons and advise us of the result of your enquiry

by Captain Gill, which information from many circumstances they were acquainted with of their own knowledge when the last mentioned vessel was in the river, they believe to be true

22 The said information is so circumstantial that we cannot have the least doubt of the truth of the whole We therefore positively direct, if the *Nottingham* shall at any time after the receipt of this letter be at your Presidency, that you make the strictest enquiry in the manner directed in our letters of last season into every circumstance of the said illicit trade And here we must observe that we think it almost impossible that such quantities of goods could be landed at any of our Presidencies or any other place or places from any ship or ships on which they may have been transhipped without their having some intimation or knowledge thereof We have reason therefore to expect our servants at Bombay have taken up this matter in the proper manner even before our orders come to hand, but least that should not have been done and the *Nottingham* is at Bengal, you are immediately to proceed as above directed, and if it shall appear to you upon the strictest enquiry as directed in our former orders with this addition, of examining the mates upon oath that any of the said illicit goods are actually on board or have been on board and delivered before her arrival at your port, it is our express and positive order and upon no pretence or consideration whatsoever to be dispensed with, that you forthwith dismiss Captain Howe from the command of the *Nottingham* and send him to England by the first conveyance that offers, except the said ship, and appoint his chief officer, captain in his stead, if there is no objection to him, as we are thoroughly satisfied, Captain Howe must either be actually concerned in the said goods, or that he knowingly received or permitted them to be received on board, or both, which we look upon in the same aggravating light

23 We have appointed the gentlemen following, to be our council of supra cargoes for managing the affairs of the Company in China the ensuing season, *vizt*, Messrs Thomas Fitzhugh, Henry Revell, Stephen Devisme, Benjamin Torin, Mann Horner, Thomas Smith, Thomas Thomas, William Rous, Thomas Bevan, William Harrison, Matthew Raper Junior and John Bradby Blake We have also chosen Messrs William Henry Pigou and George Rogers, writers to our council in China for five years

24 Messrs Horner, Thomas, Harrison, Raper and Blake with the two writers take their passage on the two ships bound directly to China

25 The ships which are to be under the direction and management of the said council are, the *Osterley* or any other ship which shall be sent from Bombay to Canton in her stead in the year 1767 and all such as shall in the course of that year arrive there from the Company's settlements in India, destitute of supra cargoes customarily called casual ships (if any such there shall be), also the *Northumberland* bound first to St Helena and from thence to Canton, the *Latham* bound to Madeira and Fort St George and thence to Canton, the *Houghton, Earl of Lincoln, London* and *Triton* bound to Fort St George and thence to Canton, the *British King* bound first to Bencoolen and thence to Canton, and the *Lord Clive* and *Vansittart* consigned directly to Canton

26 Messrs. Henry Revell, Stephen Devisme, Benjamin Torin, Mann

Horner William Roux Thomas Bevan and William Harrison are appointed our resident supra cargoes at Canton for the year 1768, they are directed as usual to conduct and take care of the Company's affairs upon the departure of such of the beforementioned council as are to leave China in the season of the year 1767 and before the arrival of those supra cargoes we shall appoint members for the succeeding council.

27 We this year forbid our China ships calling at Batavia outward bound except in cases of absolute necessity and you are to signify the same to the commander of any casual ship which may be dispatched from your Presidency to Canton if any such shall happen to be sent.

28 The supra cargoes we have appointed for purchasing a cargo of coffee at Mocha for the ship *Bute* which is to proceed thither from Bombay as beforementioned in the year 1768 are one of the Company's covenanted servants from Bombay Mr Edward Ironside and Captain Patrick Maitland

29 It gives us great pleasure to observe you have found firs up the country which the Master Attendant reports are proper for masts and yards if they will stand the climate We hope to find upon trial they have done so as it will in such case be a very important discovery and save the Company a great expence which they are now put to in tonnage for those articles and will enable them much better to accommodate the troops sent to India.

Consultin d &  
9th Sep 14 Oct.

30 We remarked in our letter of the 17th May last upon the very great expence of the purchase and fitting out the *Admiral Stevens* packet and we have been since confirmed in those sentiments by finding that upon putting her up to sale she would yield but nine hundred and fifty pounds with all her stores excepting guns and kintlage

31 We are pleased to find you have adjusted the Company's demand on the owners of the *Solebay* with the commander It was certainly the intention of the agreement that the owners should account with the Company for the money advanced them in England and as the *Beckenham* was under the same circumstances we hope to hear you have done the like with respect to her

32 In our letter of the 19th February last we strongly urged the necessity of dispatching home your ships as early as possible to prevent the risk and other evils which have frequently attended the keeping them too late in your River and of which the *Bute* last season was a striking instance We are now confirmed in the necessity of those injunctions by the non arrival of the *Fourborne* and *Admiral Watts* n with us we therefore positively direct you to pay the strictest attention to this important point by giving the earliest dispatch to all the ships under your direction you possibly can that we may have no occasion to animadvert upon your measures in this respect for the future

33 We observe you recommend to our notice Mr Dean the Deputy Master Attendant for his services in the marine and being  
12th Jan always ready to encourage merit we direct that he succeed  
17th Feb to the post of Master Attendant upon the death or coming  
away of Captain Febble if you shall judge him in every respect qualified for that charge

34 We must here take notice that the business in this department has been hitherto entirely conducted little care has been taken to preserve and improve

the vessels in a proper manner as appears frequently in such vessels in particular employed upon the West Coast service It is therefore recommended to you to see that the Master Attendant, and all the people dependant upon his office, do their duty to the Company in every respect to your satisfaction

35 We much approve of your putting in execution the Master Attendant's proposal for cutting a ship and making ways for repairing the sloops, to prevent their being sent round to Bombay for that purpose, which was attended with much loss of time and expence to the service, and we hope to find that they can be repaired as well, and upon much more reasonable terms than at Bombay

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

36 The principal articles of the intended export for our several Presidencies and China this season consist nearly of the undermentioned particulars *vizt*,

*For Bengal*

Cloth 426 bales, long ells 60 bales, other piece goods 3 bales, lead 300 tons, copper 200 tons, iron 300 tons, steel 10 tons, gunpowder 1510 barrels, small arms 1032 chests, Madeira wine 150 pipes and vidonia wine from the Island Tenriff 70 pipes

*For Bombay Presidency*

For the Bombay market cloth 1560 bales long ells 374 bales other piece goods 5 bales and cases lead 300 tons copper 408 tons iron 300 tons steel 50 tons tin 10 tons Madeira wine 50 pipes gunpowder 210 barrels small arms 180 chests 20 pipes of vidonia wine to be sent from St George.

For Bussorah market cloth 324 bales 18 of which are of a French fabrick long ells 100 bales of 10 pieces in each.

For Bushire market cloth 784 bales long ells 700 bales of 10 pieces in each other piece goods 2 bales

For Scindy market cloth 106 bales long ells 30 bales of 20 pieces in each bale

All the said beforementioned consignments are divided in nearly equal proportions on the six Bombay ships the Madeira wine excepted which all goes on the  *Worcester*

*For Fort Marlborough*

Light iron 100 ton flour 20 tons beef and pork 40 half hogsheds of each gun powder [ ] barrels cordage 38 tons ironmongers ware of several sorts 16 tons anchors and grapnels 7 tons.

All which articles are laden on the ships *Earl of Middlesex* and *British King*

Over and above the said several consignments we are well satisfied our said Presidency will be in want of many particulars from our settlements in India you are therefore to comply in the fullest manner with our repeated and positive orders for sending such supplies thither as they stand in need of or indent for from time to time

You will observe we lend out no treasure this season to Fort Marlborough as we shall depend upon that Presidency's being supplied by you and our President and Council at Fort St George with as much as they shall have occasion for for the purchase of their pepper investment and their civil military and other expences and you are to concert the necessary measures accordingly the sooner a remittance can be made it will be agreeable as we

first at Fort St George, 630 barrels of gunpowder designed for Bengal which we have directed our President and Council to forward to you by the first safe and convenient opportunities

38 Our agents at the island of Madeira, Messrs Chambers, Hiccox and Denyer are directed to make a regular consignment to you by invoice and bill of lading of the 150 pipes of wine to be shipped by them in equal proportions on the ships, *Calcutta* and *Norfolk* as beforementioned. As it has lain near a year in warehouse, and they had our directions for it's being the best the island produced, we hope it will prove to your satisfaction, however, give us very particular accounts how it turns out, both with respect to the quality and the condition of the casks, taking care that the owners are made accountable to the Company for any deficiencies arising from bad stowage or pilferage on board

39 We last year sent you a quantity of vidonia wine from the island of Teneriffe for a tryal whether it might not in a great measure, if not altogether, answer as well in the East Indies as Madeira and acquainted you of our intention of sending a further quantity this year. We have in consequence thereof ordered the ship, *Lord Holland*, to call there and receive 150 pipes each to gauge full 120 gallons for which we are to pay ten pounds sterling a pipe including the casks with ten iron hoops thereon, and all charges on board, seventy pipes of which are to be consigned to your Presidency, and the other eighty to the President and Council at Fort St George, as these are ordered at two separate houses they are to be shipped as follow *vizt*,

By Mr John Collogan, eighty pipes for Fort St George and twenty for Bengal  
By Messrs Comyns, Brothel and Power fifty pipes for Bengal

40 Reference must be had to the invoices, bills of lading and advices which we have directed our correspondents to enclose to you by the *Lord Holland* for the particulars of the seventy pipes intended for your Presidency, who are also as usual to transmit to you certificates of the gauge and condition of the casks under their hands and of Captain Nairn or his officers, in like manner as is practised with the Madeira wine, the casks are also to be burnt with an iron near the bung with the Company's mark, and the marks of each house are to be on their respective casks. We last year gave you particular directions for returning to us an account of the condition, quantities and qualities of the wines you received from each house, together with a survey of their stowage and we shall expect your punctual compliance therewith in regard to those you will receive by the *Lord Holland*

41 Out of the above quantities of wine consigned to Bengal, you are positively directed to send to Fort Marlborough, four pipes of Madeira and four pipes of vidonia by the first good conveyances that offer. We direct the President and Council at Fort St George to send to Fort Marlborough the same quantity of Madeira and vidonia wines out of what goes consigned to them

42 Notwithstanding any former orders we dispense with your putting up any of the Madeira or vidonia wines consigned to your Presidency to publick sale, and we leave it to you, to divide the same among our civil and military servants, in such proportions, as shall appear to you most equitable according to their several ranks and stations, and we direct that they be charged at the

full prime cost with an advance of thirty per cent thereon observing that the loss by leakage is to be accounted a part of the prime cost. On these terms only the said wines are to be delivered to the respective persons to whom this indulgence extends upon their paying for the same accordingly

43 Frequent complaints having been received of the pasteboards used in the package of the fine cloths occasioning damage they are this year packed with slit deals instead of pasteboards. We desire to be informed by the first opportunity if the method of packing be esteemed more safe and convenient than the former

44 We have come to a resolution that all the medicines and drugs wanted for our several Presidencies, shall in future be provided by the Company of Apothecaries notwithstanding their prices exceed those of other persons as there is a certainty of being supplied by them with the best sorts every article coming under the inspection of a deputation from the College of Physicians, and the Surgeons Company which is not the case with those of private persons You are however to report to us from time to time the quality of those sent to your Presidency and if you should find any of them not answer our expectations you will point out to us particularly the defects with such observations as may be necessary for our information

45 By the ships of this season you will receive the hats and shoes for the military as desired and we shall continue to comply with your indent for them annually both these articles are provided by different makers whom we have directed to distinguish their goods by separate marks and we shall expect your impartial opinion which are entitled to the preference Twenty dozen shoes of a superior quality are also sent for the officers, and you are also to report to us how they answer

46 We have ordered twenty five thousand musquet of the best sort instead of thirty thousand indented for and which we judge will be quite sufficient especially when we considered your Separate Letter of the 30th September 1765 wherein you only desire an immediate supply of ten thousand small arms and an annual recruit of four thousand afterward

your advices of this year, we can only say, that all possible care is taken for the Company being furnished with the best that can be made, and not any of the former are received, but such as are proved and passed by His Majesty's proof masters at Woolwich, exactly in the same manner as the King's, and the musquet barrels are proved at the Tower under the inspection of the proof masters, we have entered into a very minute examination of the report of the proof of brass ordnance at Bengal on the 14th and 15th January last, and are fully convinced, that so many pieces being condemned is owing to the established quantity of powder for the proof being greatly exceeded. The brass 24 pounder field pieces were proved at Woolwich with 18 lb powder but at Bengal with 21 lb, and even the charge of 18 lb was thought by several to be too much, it being the quantity for the King's medium 24 pounders, which although they are a foot and half shorter than the Company's 24 pounders, weigh about twelve hundred weight more, the King's proof charge for light twelve pounders is six pounds of powder, and for light six pounders three pounds of powder, whereas they have been proved at Bengal with double the quantity. The accident therefore of the twelve pounder gun bursting in a salute with three pounds of powder appears to us most extraordinary.

50 We would have the founders names on the condemned guns and mortars transmitted to us, and the same is to be observed with respect to the gunmakers should any of the small arms turn out defective.

51 Twelve eighteen pounder medium brass guns are ordered to be cast instead of the like number of long light twenty four pounders indented for, as we are well assured the eighteen pounder mediums will answer much better.

### *Thirldy of investments*

52 If the revenues come regularly into your treasury, to so large an amount as you have given us reason to expect, and which we flatter ourselves will certainly be the case if no unforeseen disappointments happen, you will be possessed, after the civil and military charges of the Presidency are defrayed, and a reserve made sufficient for all exigencies of such large sums as may be difficult to be invested, in order for their annually centering with us, and the Company in such case may be very rich in Bengal, and at the same time under very disagreeable and embarrassing circumstances at home. It will require therefore all your attention to enlarge every channel for conveying to us as early as possible, the annual produce of our acquisitions, as well as profits of trade, for this purpose, we recommend it to you in the strongest manner, to increase the investment of your Presidency to the utmost extent you can, without debasing the several manufactures by indiscriminately taking in such goods as you shall judge unfit for the Europe market, and at the same time using all imaginable care and caution, not to give any just reasons for complaints from the other European nations, as we would have harmony subsist between you and them, which we think with prudence may very consistently be preserved, even with your endeavours for increasing our investments. In order for your guidance in this important point, we now send you a list of the species and quantities of the several articles to be provided at your Presidency, you will



observe that the quantities are larger than usual yet great as they are we hope by exerting your best endeavours they may be extended particularly in those articles pointed out in the accompanying account to as large an amount as you can find conveyances for for which purpose every ship must have as much surplus tonnage as she can possibly take in but as the number of ships to be dispatched from your Presidency will depend upon circumstances we shall confide in your care for concerting with our other Presidencies the necessary measures for being effectually supplied with shipping

53 If your circumstances are such as we have intimated in the preceding paragraph the investment you can send from Bengal will not we apprehend with all your endeavours be to so great an amount as to answer the desired purposes. You are therefore to make such early remittances to our other Presidencies as will enable them to extend their investments also to the utmost and in particular we shall depend upon your effectually supplying annually our council in China with silver and other articles sufficient for a full investment from thence.

54 With respect to the China investment if you forwarded thither the twenty four lacks of rupees mentioned in your letter of the 29th January last which we must suppose to have been done in that case our council at Canton will with their stock in hand and exports from hence have enough to load home all the ships arrived there in the year 1766 and have after that a large surplus remaining to begin the investment for the ships now going out which are to be dispatched from thence in the course of the season of 1767 We observe with pleasure from Lord Clive's letter of the 1st February last that it was intended to send twenty four lacks of rupees more to China for the investment for the last mentioned ships if that measure has been carried into execution there will be much more than a sufficient stock to provide full loadings for them and even to have a large surplus remaining but as we apprehend our China council have given you some account of their situation the forwarding all or part of the last mentioned twenty four lacks must necessarily depend upon their representation to you and our Presidency of Fort St. George and we make no doubt of your carefully attending to that important branch of the Company's affairs by proportioning the supplies according to circumstances

55 Though as before noticed we must suppose the China council informed you of the state of their stock yet to prevent difficulties which may arise from any omission in that quarter we now give them and the resident *supra* cargoes for the time being the most positive orders to take the earliest opportunities of informing you from time to time of what remittances may be necessary for their annual investments

from hence for that market do and will in future consist of woollen goods and lead only, until we give you notice to the contrary

57 With respect to saltpetre the directions we gave last season in our letter of the 13th December, are to be observed the ensuing season, it being our meaning that no more be sent us than two thousand tons in the whole from all our Presidencies together You will therefore take the necessary measures accordingly

58 We cannot help expressing our uneasiness at the yearly increase of the number of subordinates under the direction of junior servants, we are sensible of the necessity there is for exerting a degree of influence in the providing the investment to prevent our rivals in trade from buying from the weavers at the close of the season, the cloths, for which our money was advanced early in the year, but when we reflect on the many instances of extortion and oppression practised by Mr Gray and others of our servants over the natives, and the numberless instances wherein Europeans when at a distance from the Presidency, have taken upon them the character of magistrates, have overawed the civil administration, and oppressed the country around them, and through the abject state of the oppressed natives, their malversations escape unheard of, unless their own quarrels or the vigilance of an uncorrupt administration bring them to light, we become extremely averse to the trusting our servants from under the eye of the Presidency, you are therefore to consider the spirit of this our intention, relative to the new established subordinates, as far as it may be proper to carry it into execution without detriment to our investment, and we further recommend it to your consideration, whether, and in what degree it may be eligible to revive the former custom of providing the investment by *dadney* merchants

*Fourthly concerning the country government and European powers  
and the trade of India*

59 We approve your spirited remonstrances to the Dutch General and Council at Batavia, on the occasion of the seizure of the opium from the snows *Cornish* and *Neptune* at Mallacca, you may be assured we never shall acquiesce in the pretensions the Dutch form to an exclusive trade to the eastward, and in order to obtain a suitable redress, we shall depend upon your taking such measures, as are consistent with justice, the law of nations and the treaties subsisting between our respective sovereigns

General Lre  
from 20th Jany  
1766 Pa 28

*Fifthly of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

60 We hope the barracks you are determined to build, will tend to the preservation of the men, and to promote discipline by keeping them more under the eye of the officers, though we have doubts as to the building of barracks in so populous a city as Patna, where we think the men will be more exposed to diseases, and disputes between them and the natives which may have bad consequences, and it seems to us that if the barracks were situated at a proper distance from Patna, all such inconveniences may in a great measure be avoided

61 Mr Martin's letter of the 29th January last and the view of the New Fort which accompanied it, give us great reason to be alarmed at the dangerous situation of the works both from the encroachments of the River and from the ruinous condition they appear to be in. It is a very mortifying circumstance to us to find that after the vast sums expended in this great work, it should now appear that the want of judgment in those who were immediately charged with the direction and construction should put us to so great an expence as must attend the making an entire new exterior revetement. We flattered ourselves that the description Mr Martin gave us in his letter of the 26th November 1764 of the condition of the works, and the apprehensions he then expressed, were the judgment formed upon a first view and might be exaggerated for we could hardly believe it possible, that with the least experience such gross errors in the construction could have been committed as now too evidently appear but Mr Martin's letter and perspective view now before us are confirmations too strong to admit of further doubt and it is become highly necessary that some remedy should be applied. We must for that purpose in a great measure depend on the ability and integrity of Mr Martin to whose department it particularly belongs nevertheless as Mr Call our Chief Engineer on the coast of Choromandel has acquired great experience in constructing the fortifications there we are well pleased to find you had wrote to our Presidency at Fort St. George that he might proceed to Calcutta to assist with his advices and if agreeable thereto he has been or shall arrive at your Presidency. We hope that he and Mr Martin deliberating together may concert some effectual plan for remedying the past errors and proceeding in the future works with as little expence as possible. You on the spot must be better able to judge of the propriety of what they may propose than we who can only be furnished with descriptions however in all events confiding in your care and attention our directions are only general, that those works which are most essential to render the fortifications defensible be done first. That such works as are necessary to the security of the place and (by what cause soever) are become incapable of substantial repairs be rebuilt. That such expedients upon mature deliberation as shall be judged most effectual to prevent the dangerous encroachments of the River be carried into execution and that until the body of the place the magazines lodgments barracks and other buildings immediately necessary be completed no new works are to be undertaken or begun without a real necessity.

62 Mr Campbell's remarks on the inconveniencies which would arise on the fixing the *sicca* on a permanent footing do not carry any other conviction than that of a temporary inconvenience from the distress it would bring on the *shroffs* and others who live by the exchange on it. We are not convinced it would occasion more frauds in debasing or false coining of rupees and we therefore recommend it to you to take the subject once more under your consideration.

*Sixthly and seventhly of covenant and military servants and accounts*

63 Mr Richard Becher and Mr James Alexander now present in the Hall attest their statements agreeable to our appointment as a list is in our letter to you of the 14th May last.

64 We have this season appointed the following persons to be writers at your Presidency, who are to rank upon the list of covenant servants in the order they are here named *vizt* , John Purling, John Brisco, John Mosden Hatch, Christopher Keating, John Shakespear, Edward Parry, Robert Jacomb, Adam Dawson, Matthew Davie, Joseph Sherburn, William Holland, Nathaniel Price, David Anderson, John Dick, and William Cotes

65 We have also appointed Mr Roger Anthony Dumbleton to be a writer upon your establishment on his attaining to the age of sixteen years, which as appears from the registers, formerly transmitted us from your Presidency where he was born, will be on or about the 16th March 1768

66 We gave very particular directions in our letter of the 13th December 1765, for keeping all our covenant servants closely employed in their several departments , for taking proper measures with such of them as prove negligent or refractory, and for discharging from our service all monthly writers We now confirm those orders, and require your strictest compliance therewith, as we are satisfied, that with the great number of servants already at your Presidency, and the ample supply now sent, the business in every branch may be performed with great ease and leave no pretence for continuing any monthly writers in our employ

67 We have received the remonstrance of our servants on the Select Committee's sending to Fort St George to be assisted with the four gentlemen from that Presidency, and although the remonstrance in itself is decent, yet the behaviour of our servants on the occasion, has been so extraordinary, that if passed unnoticed, there would be an end of all order and subordination, and consequently the Company's affairs fall into the utmost confusion We do not wonder that some few of those who had served us with zeal and fidelity, thought themselves aggrieved by a measure, which reflected on the whole body of our covenanted servants , but we fear very few were in that situation, and even those few, lose the merit of that plea, by having joined with some, who have been conspicuous for their misconduct and with unexperienced young men, to fly in the face of Government Mr Majendie's refusal to reply to the questions put to him, respecting the general agreement to refuse the President's invitations, to treat with disrespect the members of the Committee who concurred in this necessary measure, and with contempt and indignity the gentlemen called from Madrass, sufficiently prove the existence of such a combination, and the Committee did well to suspend Mr Majendie<sup>2</sup> the service

68 We look on it, as the most wanton insolence and the highest insult to our authority in the young servants to have presumed to treat with disrespect the noble Lord who stands so high in our esteem, and a Committee distinguished by such marks of our confidence And we do therefore order and direct you to summon the whole of those servants residing in Calcutta, who were guilty of the said misbehaviour before you, and order them to make the most satisfactory concessions to the President and to the Select Committee , and the servants of the subordinates to do the same by letter , in case of disobedience either to the letter or spirit of this order, whether by an absolute refusal or by the manner of doing it, we leave it to you to dismiss the most refractory among them, and to send them to Europe

69 These concessions are a justice due to the President and to the gentlemen to whom they are made but it must be a long course of decent deportment diligence and fidelity that can restore these young servants to our good opinion let them know that until they have learned to obey they are not fit to be trusted with power and that unless we have some very convincing proof of their good behaviour they shall be kept back in the service, and never suffered to rise until they are worthy

70 We hereby direct that upon receipt of this letter Mr Hugh Watts be dismissed from the Company's service and sent to England by one of the first conveyances that offer for reasons given in our letter to the Select Committee of this date unless you may judge it necessary to indulge him with liberty to continue in Bengal to settle his private affairs not exceeding twelve months and that only on condition he behaves to your satisfaction.

71 We have filed a bill against Mr John Johnstone in the Court of Chancery to make him account to the Company for the money he received from the present Nabob on his succeeding to the *subahship* on the decease of his father Mir Jaffier contrary to and in breach of the most express orders of the Company and we intend to proceed in the same manner against all the other servants of the Company who have been confederates with him or are concerned in the like offence.<sup>3</sup> We shall not stop here the instances in Mr Johnstone and others applying part of the revenues of Burdwan, Midnapoor and Jellalore during their residence at those places to their own private emolument to the great prejudice of the Company do not escape our notice for these and all other frauds we shall use all legal endeavours to bring the offenders to justice and we hope by these means we shall put an entire stop to that venality and corruption which has been of late so prevalent in almost every rank of our servants

72 We shall expect and accordingly direct that you furnish us with all the evidence and in the most authentick manner you can not only with respect to the wrong the Company has sustained as beforementioned in their revenues but also to every other fraud that comes or shall come to your knowledge

73 The Company's great acquisitions in Bengal and the immense fortunes acquired with such rapidity by their servants and others are objects of so striking a nature that they could not fail of attracting general observation and accordingly we have some time since been apprized by His Majesty's ministers that the consideration of East India affairs would in all likelihood come before Parliament we are preparing the necessary informations that we may be ready to give the best satisfaction we can with respect to the situation of the Company's affairs but what such enquiries may be and the issue of them cannot possibly be foreseen by us we can therefore at present only make this remark that it is incumbent on every member of the Company and every servant belonging to them to evince that fidelity and attention to the true interest of the Company will be the governing motives of their conduct

74 In our letter to the Select Committee under date of the 17th May last paragraph 19 we gave them to understand that you might expect to receive by this conveyance our directions with respect to a plan for the encouragement of our servants for many well known reasons we are under the necessity of deferring the same to a full wing dispatch of this season amounting to the

preparation for the Parliamentary enquiry into the Company's affairs as mentioned in paragraph 73 of this letter too much engrosses our time and attention to enter into the discussion of a subject which requires the maturest consideration. In the mean time we shall depend upon your having upon the receipt of the said letter fully and effectually complied with the orders therein contained with respect to the inland trade in salt &c.

75 In the several ships packets you will as usual receive lists of the several persons whom we have licensed to proceed to and remain in the East Indies as free merchants in the seafaring way or otherways signed by our Secretary

76 The like is done with respect to such persons as we permit to take passage to India in the quality of surgeons and who are to be provided for in the Company's service, if found deserving, at any of our settlements, after those who have been already recommended, if any such there are

77 Having taken into our consideration the number of military recruits necessary to be sent to the several Presidencies this season, we have come to a resolution, that two thousand be raised and sent out this season, non commission officers, artillery men and cadets included *vizt*, nineteen hundred to the three Presidencies and one hundred to St Helena and Fort Marlborough

78 The lists in the several ships packets will inform you what part of the said recruits are intended for your Presidency, and who are upon their arrival to be incorporated in the several corps where they are most wanted

79 We have always laid it down as an invariable rule, that our several Presidencies are to consider the affairs at each as a common concern, and are accordingly to mutually assist each other, whenever the exigency thereof requires it, if therefore, the recruits intended for Bengal are more immediately wanted at Fort St George, they have liberty to detain them during such exigency, on the other hand, if you should be in want of any further assistance, in addition to the recruits designed for your Presidency, the President and Council at Fort St George have our directions for supplying you accordingly. The like orders are sent to Bombay

80 And here it is necessary to inform you that we do not send either to your or any other of our Presidency any commission officers this season

81 List of persons nominated for cadets in our troops under your Presidency we send enclosed, and direct their promotion in the order they stand therein, with this exception, that such of them as have borne His Majesty's commissions are to have the preference, and to rank at the head of the said list, according to the dates of those commissions but as we have not been able to come at the said dates, we must leave this point to be adjusted by you on their producing those commissions, or authenticated copies thereof to you. They are not however to supersede any of the cadets sent out last season, and have been accordingly acquainted by us

82 The 8th paragraph of our letter of the 26th March last, conveyed to you our directions for returning to us very particular lists properly authenticated of the cadets unprovided for, or preferred in Bengal, also for preventing the employ and undue preference of free merchants and others in the military line, to the prejudice of the cadets appointed by us, whom we then especially

confined to our military service only. These and the other rules prescribed in the said paragraph we hereby confirm.

83 We shall be pleased to hear that all your bonds are paid off and cancelled. To us it appears that no register of them has been regularly kept in a book by itself at least no copy of such book has ever been sent to us, which ought to have been done annually. And it should have been a standing rule with you never to have put the Company's seal to any bond but in the presence of two gentlemen of the Council after the money had been paid into your treasury. And the gentlemen present at fixing the seal should put the two initial letters of their name to the register in the said book as is the practice at this house and we accordingly now direct that the said method be observed by you as a standing rule for the future.

84 On your Consultation 12th August 1765 appears a demand of Bolackydass for payment of two hundred and thirty thousand rupees lent the Company shortly after the breaking out of the war with Mhir Cossim and which sum you represent had been passed to the credit of Mhir Jassier on appearance of its having been the property of Mhir Cossim and agree that the President shall apply to the *Naib Subah* to obtain him recovery thereof but as we cannot trace any further steps in this affair you are to inform us of the issue or if no such application was made you must assign your reasons for it as it does not appear to us you had sufficient grounds to believe the money to have been Mhir Cossim's property.

the other method has been certainly attended with great prejudice to the Company by putting it in the power of the French and Dutch to bring home such valuable investments this season, which they could not otherways have done

87 And here we cannot avoid remarking, that the cargoes of the French and Dutch ships, seem to appear much more valuable than ours, owing to the larger proportion of fine goods than we have received, from which this natural conclusion may be drawn, that this measure was pursued to encrease the remittances through those channels, to as large an amount as possible for the benefit of individuals, though to the great disadvantage of the Company

88 Either way of remitting home private fortunes to an unlimited amount, must as before observed be attended with great prejudice to the Company We could wish therefore some other mode could be found out, but as we cannot think of any at present, we now inform you that the furnishing the agents of the European companies with money is so evidently detrimental to this Company that there wants no further elucidation, and you are accordingly hereby directed to discourage and prevent the same to the utmost of your power

89 The said channels being thus to be entirely stopped, we will allow of remittances by draughts upon us, to as large an amount as is consistent with the Company's interest and circumstances in England, as well as reasonable with respect to the remitters You are therefore hereby directed, notwithstanding the regulations in our letter of the 17th May last by the *Mercury*, punctually to observe the following rules and orders, and not deviate from them on any pretence whatsoever

90 The amount of all the draughts upon us as well certificates as bills in any one season is not to exceed one fourth part of the invoice price of the cargoes of all the ships of the season consigned to us from your Presidency

91 The amount of the draughts upon us by any one ship is not to exceed one fourth part of the invoice price of such ship's cargo

92 The exchange from your Presidency is to continue as settled by our letter of the 17th of May at the rate of two shillings and three pence for a current rupee to our civil and military servants, and to all others (except as hereafter excepted), two shillings and one penny only for a current rupee

93 The indulgence in our said letter of the 17th May for drawing bills on us to the amount of twenty thousand pounds at ninety days sight for the purposes therein mentioned is hereby revoked

94 And no bills whatsoever must be made payable in a less space of time than three hundred and sixty five days after sight, and they are to carry no interest, that indulgence being also hereby revoked

95 In granting certificates payable by the Company, care is to be taken that the sum of money only received into your treasury is mentioned therein no rate of exchange or time of payment must be specified, as indulgences in those respects are to be left to our determination here

96 In granting bills and certificates upon us for money received into your treasury, the preference is to be given to our civil and military servants, particularly our President Lord Clive on account of his *jaghure*, for the



produce of our deceased servants estates the amount of what the commanders and officers of our Europe ships may pay in on account of their adventures, also all money paid in on account of the produce of coral and other articles licensed by us to be exported by the traders in diamonds then to such others who want to make remittances as you shall judge may be most interesting and necessary provided all the said draughts together do not exceed the limitation beforementioned of one quarter part of the cargoes consigned to us. With respect to bills to be drawn for the purposes here mentioned they are to be at the rate of two shillings and three pence for a current rupee but all others are to be at the rate of two shillings and one penny

97 Every person to whom it shall be agreed to give bills or certificates on us must before the same are signed by the Governour and Council make an affidavit before a magistrate to be inserted on the back of such bill or certificate that the money paid into our treasury for them is his own property or the property of some other person whom he shall name and the magistrate before whom the oath is made shall sign his name at the foot thereof in attestation of that act and the agents for the coral merchants are also to make oath that the sums for which they are to be indulged with bills are the produce of such coral or other articles as have been carried out under our licence.

98 In order that you may distinguish to whom bills of certificates are to be granted we are to inform you and accordingly direct that the amount of what the commanders of the Europe ships pay in for their adventures the amount of deceased persons estates and of what shall be paid in on account of the estates of such of our civil and military servants as have been out of the service a year from the time of their quitting it on these several accounts certificates only are to be granted on all other accounts the draughts are to be by bills drawn upon us

99 We have given similar directions in our other Presidencies and have settled the rate of exchange at Fort St. George for civil and military servants and other purposes as beforementioned at seven shillings and eight pence for a current pagoda and to others at seven shillings and four pence per pagoda and Bombay at two shillings and five pence per Bombay rupee for the first named classes and to others at two shillings and three pence per rupee but we have limited the amount at the first named place to one quarter part of the invoice price of the whole consignments from thence and at Bombay the whole amount of bills and certificates upon us from thence with all its subordinates is not to exceed fifty thousand pounds in any one season

100 You were acquainted in our General Letter of the 17th May last by the *Mercury* that Admiral Cornish and Commadore Tinker had applied to us for our interposition for the discharge of the twelve Lacks and an half of rupees promised by the late Nabal in his written grant to the officers and men of His Majestys navy for their services to him since confirmed by the present Nabal we also acquainted you we had not time to enter into a discussion of that affair before the dispatch of the *Mercury* we are now to inform you that the said claim being a matter of the greatest importance for us to decide upon we thought it necessary to lay the state thereof before a General Court of Directors on the 24th of September last when they came

to the following resolution—"That it be recommended to the Court of Directors to cause so much of the Donation to the Navy as can be recovered, to be paid out of the Arrears of the Revenues due to the Nabob of Bengal, and for so much as they shall fall short of the amount of the said Donation, the same be paid out of the Company's Dewanny at such reasonable times as shall be most convenient to their Affairs"

101 In the letter from your Select Committee under date of the 31st January last, we are informed when the collections of the year are closed Mr Sykes is directed to enquire strictly into the ballances due to the Government, and to use every possible endeavour to recover them, as they entertain the most flattering hope, that from these arrears will arise a fund sufficient to discharge all the publick demands on the late Nabob for which our honour may stand any way engaged

102 In carrying the resolution of the General Court into execution, the first object, is to use your best endeavours to procure all or as large a proportion of the navy claim to be paid out of the said fund of arrears as considering all circumstances can consistently be done—and the next, agreeable to the said resolution, must be, to discharge the remainder out of the receipts of the *dewanny*, we need not tell you that by the last measure the Company will be absolutely so much out of pocket, therefore it will require your attention to recover as before observed as much out of the arrears as possible

103 The whole money so to be recovered for the navy officers and men is to be paid into the hands of their agents in Bengal on their giving proper discharges for the same

### *Supplement*

104 As it is our intention and orders, that no other ship or ships shall be detained in India a season extraordinary than the annual China and Mocha ships from Bombay, you are therefore punctually to observe the same If consistently therewith, it may be necessary to send any ship a country voyage, in such case, we recommend the *Hector* for that service, provided such voyage will be advantageous to the Company, and as before observed, she can be returned to us from one or other of our settlements the same season she arrives in India

105 We remark with great surprize, the extraordinary allowances in Consultation of the 3rd July 1765 to be settled upon the Second in Council, and to every second who may hereafter be appointed to succeed to the Government, of fifteen thousand rupees per annum, and to the Import Warehouse-keeper, a salary of four thousand rupees, represented to have been formerly annexed to that post, though we can find no precedent for it, our approbation is not once desired to it, neither is there any mention of it in your letters We direct them to be both abolished, and shall take the subject further into our consideration, by our next advices

106 Having by our letter to you of the 17th May last appointed Messrs Claud Russell and William Aldersey of Council, Mr, Robert Maddison,

factor also Messrs. William Bensley and Francis Gladwin writers at your Presidency we now send covenants to be entered into by those gentlemen to be executed witnessed and returned to us by the first conveyance.

107 We have appointed Mr David Penman a cadet in the artillery upon your establishment who has been well recommended to us for his qualifications as an engineer He is therefore to be employed either in the artillery or as an engineer in such manner as you shall find most suitable to our service and his abilities

108 We have entertained Thomas Gardiner a cadet also for your artillery and as he has served above three years as such in the royal train and has made a great proficiency in his studies at the academy at Woolwich he is to be appointed a practitioner engineer on your establishment when a vacancy shall happen.

109 We are come to a resolution to receive money into our treasury here of such persons who want to make remittances to their friends in the East Indies and to grant bills of exchange for the amount upon our respective Presidencies which bills will under our direction be signed from time to time by our Secretary and are to be as punctually honoured as if signed by ourselves

110 We are now to advise you that we have accordingly drawn upon you by this ship the following set of bills of exchange at the rate of two shillings and one penny for the current rupee and at thirty days sight viz

One set for current rupees two thousand	CRs	£ Sterg
eight hundred and eighty payable to		
Mr Charles Boughton in full for pounds		
sterling three hundred received of Mrs.	2880	300
Mary Boughton dated the 20th November		
1766.		

111 In stating accounts with the owners of ship *Kent* we observe that a large quantity of woollen goods were damaged and returned by you to Captain Miles who disposed of them as usual. By which means a large sum of the Company's money remained in his hands without any premium. To prevent this in future we would have you pursue the method practised at Bombay where the Import Warehouse keeper doth summon a committee of Black merchants to survey the damage who in his presence and the presence of the commander of the ship settle the number of yards proper to be charged on each piece which survey being put into writing is signed by all the said persons and being annexed to the Warehouse keeper's report of the damage and short delivery is laid before the Governor and Council afterward the Accountant of the settlement states an account of all the goods damaged and valued by the ship charging them at the invoice price with the freight thereon according to charterparty copies of which being signed by him and the commander of the ship are transmitted to us to be charged to the owner's account here. To prevent mistakes we have sent in this packet No 23 a copy

of one of these reports, and of the account, which states the damage and short delivery as a form to be observed by your Accountant in future

We are,  
Your loving friends,

Geo Dudley/Thos Rous/Rob Jones/  
Cha Cutts/Fredk Pigou/Heny Savage/  
J Purling / John Harrison / Chrstr  
Baron / Thos Saunders / Jos DuPré /  
J Creswicke/E H Cruttenden/George  
Cuming / John Roberts / J Pardoe /  
Peter Ducane Junr / Luke Scrafton /  
Charles Chambers / F W Barrington /  
Edwd Wheler / George Wombwell

London,  
21 November 1766  
[Per Hector]

27

## LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1766

*Approve of Sykes's settlement of revenues and the account produced—payment of qistbandi by landholders—jagirs in Bihar—Sykes to continue as Resident of Durbar—drain of treasure from Bengal—inconvenience caused by large sums of money remitted to Europe through foreigners—proposal for farming of Calcutta lands—disapprove letting of lands in perpetuity by private contract—residency charges in Burdwan, a stigma on administration—corruption among Company's servants in carrying on inland trade—apprehensive of corrupt junior officers' being entrusted with responsible tasks—resentment of Bengal servants at the appointment of four Councillors from Madras—extension of powers of Select Committee to correct abuses—conduct of Messrs Leycester and Gray—Company not to give military protection to Shah Alam*

**O**UR President and Select Committee at Fort William in Bengal

1 In our General Letter to the President and Council bearing even date with this, we have acknowledged the receipt of the several letters received since the departure of the *Mercury* from hence, among which is that from you of the 30th January last received in duplicate by the ships *Grenville* and *Kent*, upon which and the proceedings accompanying them, we shall now give you our thoughts and directions

2 But we must here premise, that although we address this to you as our Select Committee, the orders, directions and instructions herein contained are to be duly attended to, observed and obeyed by our President and Council as effectually to all intents and purposes as if they were inserted in the General Letter to them, this, however, is not at all to lessen or abate in any respect the powers with which we have invested you as our Select Committee,

3 It gives us very great satisfaction to find that an experience of six months has confirmed you in the opinion you entertained of the necessity and utility of the important steps you had taken for the establishing of our advantages on a solid and permanent footing. The peace with all foreign powers and the tranquility within the provinces afford us the prospect of seeing your expectations answered and we rely on the continuance of the same zeal and attention to bring this great work to perfection. Your expression that the misconduct of individuals "hath rendered the English name so odious that we are no longer secure than while our hands are armed for the defence of our lives and property" will make a lasting impression on us but we hope the disapprobation we have shewn and the measures we are taking against those who have so disgraced the English name in the eyes of the natives together with the good faith justice and moderation which we have shewn since our new acquisition of power will by degrees efface those bad ideas and attach the natives to our Government from a thorough conviction of our lenity justice and power to protect them

4 We are very sensible of Mr Sykes's merit in the laborious research he has made into the revenues. The accounts are so full and clear as we could possibly have expected from so short a view and the amount shews your expectations to have been well founded.

5 The account of the revenues seems to include the land only and we do not find one head of customs in the whole accounts. We desire therefore to have it explained to us under what form they are included for we conceived they were farmed and should have expected to have found the farms had formed a head in the revenues. An examination into this seems the more necessary from the frauds committed by the *Patchoulah* at Muxadivad and from Chittabroy's having omitted to account as King's *Dewan* for some revenues and customs received at Patna as appears by Mr Sykes letter entered after your proceedings of the 5th November 1765

method might be pursued in the province of Behar and Purrunnia This we recommend to be carried into execution if practicable, at least we shall expect very satisfactory reasons why it cannot

7 We are very much pleased with the reduction of the expences of the province of Bahar, we hope the same will take place in the Purrunnia province and that we shall by your care and attention find the provincial military expences regulated in such a manner, that as on the one hand, we would not have the provinces labor under any oppressive difficulties, on the other there may not be such country force kept up as may be attended with any danger, or ill-consequences to the Company

8 Although the *jaghire* lands form a very considerable deduction of our revenues in Bahar, yet we would not have those resumed, which may have been allotted for the support or dignity of the great families, or faithful servants of the Moguls, or former *Subars* [sic] at the same time you are not to admit any new *jaghires* either from the Mogul or the Nabob without our express permission and here we must give you a caution to guard against favoritism The instability of eastern governments has commonly been owing to the treachery of their military commanders or the trusting too much power into one man's hand The reduction of the country force and our system of military discipline exempts us from the former, but we may be exposed to the latter and therefore we caution you against any partiality in favor of particular officers, a caution that occurs to us from what we wrote to you in our General Letter of the 19th February last paragraph 25 respecting Mahmud Reza Cawn, who appeared to us to have been deficient in accounting for the revenues of the Dacca province, and now it appears to us that Chitabroy has presumed on the favor shewn him in his conduct as mentioned in the 5th paragraph of this letter

9 We have been very full in our sentiments on the office of the Resident at the Durbar in our letters of the 24th December 1765 and 17th May 1766 We are very glad to see that important charge so ably conducted and we direct that Mr Sykes continue in that office as long as his conduct merits your approbation We observe that Mr Sykes has also charged the factory at Cossimbuzar We apprehend the attention to so large an investment as is made at that factory will take him off from the more important objects of his office of Resident at the Durbar, if you find our conjecture well grounded we recommend it to you, to appoint one of the other members of the Council to that chiefship that the Resident at the Durbar may apply himself solely to the superintendancy of the revenues

10 We are equally sensible with you of the inconveniencies apprehended from the annual export of treasure though we think the danger yet distant when we reflect on the great sums that used to be sent annually to Delhi, not less than a crore of rupees besides the rents of *jaghires* held by the great men at court and presents from the *Soubah* and crown officers also the great hoards of money that used to be secretly laid up, and often buried and lost through fear of the rapacity of the government (for which we persuade ourselves they will have no cause under our administration), but more than all the great drain from the Bengal provinces by the number of foreign troops which used to be hired from distant parts and carried away annually large

sums which they received for their pay We hope these drains of treasure being stopped will be more than equivalent to the loss the provinces sustain from the want of our usual supply of bullion or the decrease of foreign trade.

11 We hope the method we point out in our General Letter of this date for receiving money into our treasury will in some measure take off the large sums which are wanted to be at present remitted home and prevent their going into the hands of the foreign companies, who then must send their usual annual supply of bullion for the purchase of their investments and those together with the balance of trade in favor of Bengal with all foreign parts and all the neighbouring provinces (though perhaps not so great as formerly), will we hope keep the danger of a deficiency of specie yet at a distance and give us time to form measures to provide against so great an evil.

12 From the vast amount of the money due on bonds a very great part of which appears to be English property and much of it belonging to the estates of deceased persons we suppose considerable sums are ready to be remitted to Europe and very great inconveniences are likely to result from it every way. Although there is no part of your conduct that gives us more satisfaction than your having limited the remittances to so small a sum by the ships *Grenville* and *Kent* in which you have shewn a proper regard to the Company's interest who could not possibly have answered draughts if they had been much further extended. On the other hand great inconveniences have resulted from the large sums paid into the hands of foreigners by which they have enlarged their investments rivalled us in the markets in Europe and have been enabled to make an early provision for the following year. Considering the detriment the Company may suffer in their trade by this flow of money into foreign hands who would otherwise be obliged to import treasure into the province we are come to a resolution to allow money to be paid into the Company's cash for draughts upon us to as large an amount as we think reasonable with respect to the remitters and consistent with the Company's interest for the particulars of which we refer you to our before mentioned General Letter.

13 We very much approve of the several regulations you have made for the reduction of our enormous military expences and we make no doubt they will before this reaches your hands have been effectually carried into execution.

14 We are well pleased to remark your attention to our orders in calling down the free merchants their proper employment is in the sea service as captain and supra cargoes in the country trade or settled as merchants at Calcutta and if hereafter we find any infringement of our orders in this respect we shall as usually send for them home and testify our displeasure at those who have protected them or permitted them to go off the country. We are determined to have as few Europeans as possible dispersed all over the country. You are to keep to the spirit of this our resolution as much as possible for we have the strongest sense of the injuries the natives have suffered from having Englishmen exercising an authority over them.

15 Your proceedings in the affair of the Calcutta lands<sup>2</sup> are far from being clear or satisfactory in Consultation 28 October, the proposals for farming the land for three years are first made and the further consideration thereof appears to be postponed to your next meeting in consequence of an opinion offered by Mr Verelst that it would be more eligible to let them as talooks or perpetuities. The subject is accordingly resumed at your next Consultation on the 4th November and without any explanation of your motives it is resolved to let the lands to *the persons and upon the terms proposed* which proposal was for *three years*. Nevertheless it appears from the tenor of the petition delivered by those farmers to the Committee on the 3rd of December following, that the *aumchammias*, or deeds of possession were made perpetual for which there appears no authority on the face of your proceedings and Mr Sumner remarks in Committee the 3rd December, that the petition of the present farmers to hold the lands for three years was presented to the Council before their resolution in favor of taluckdaries was made known to the farmers which seems to imply that such a resolution had been taken although we do not find throughout the whole of this affair more than Mr Verelst's single opinion in favor of taluckdaries.

16 The letting the lands even for three years by private contract was against the spirit of our orders, but the letting them for a perpetuity by private contract was a measure we cannot account for. When we express our disapprobation of proceeding by private contract, we do not by a public contract mean a public sale or auction, but a public notice fixing a day on which proposals will be received we therefore disapprove of your having proceeded by private contract, in an affair of such importance nor can we be silent on the want of attention in the members of the Council who pass the whole of this important transaction in their above quoted short minute of the 4th November. Thus by the irregularity of your proceeding by private contract you give offence to many considerable people, who were desirous to have farmed the lands for a greater rent and by inattention you expose your grants to be reversed in a few days after they are made.

17 Although we approve and have repeatedly recommended the letting the lands on long leases after the value is nearly ascertained, yet much stronger reasons must be given than have yet appeared before we approve the granting them in perpetuity. We desire you will make the great expences on these collections the object of your particular attention.

18 Mr Verelst stands very high in our opinion for his judgment and integrity in bringing to light the great and secret frauds committed in the Midnapore collections, when we reflect on this transaction and on the great sum charged under the head of residency in the Burdwan province, with all the circumstances attending them, these alone will for ever stigmatize the administrations under which such transactions passed and declare them corrupt in every sense of the word.

19 We find in the Burdwan accounts the Committee of Lands and the President and Council who passed them never required as it was their duty to have done an explanation of the enormous sum passed under the head of charges residency so that successive governments and councils winked at this



abuse and in the present case many members of the board had passed through the office of chief of Midnapore each treading in the corrupt steps of his predecessor and by Mr Watts letter entered on your proceedings of the 20th January it appears that these things were no secret to the Governor and Council nor even to the public. We direct you to demand the sums of which we have been thus shamefully defrauded from Mr Watts and such of our servants as have been guilty of the like practice and that you send us over every thing that can tend to a legal proof of such sums having been taken it being our resolution to demand the same of such of our servants as have returned to England and to prosecute them for the recovery of the same if they refuse our just demand.

20 The argument you offer in extenuation of Mr Watts conduct of his having been corrupted by the example of his predecessors cannot be admitted by us and we therefore direct that Mr Hugh Watts be immediately dismissed from the Company's service and be sent home by one of the first conveyances that offers.

21 At the same time that we assure Mr Verelat of the high sense we entertain of his upright conduct in the bringing to light these fraudulent practices in the province of Midnapore and adding so greatly to our revenue we would also have you assure Mr Graham that he suffers no imputation on this account and that we regard him as a valuable servant

22. Our letters for these two years past sufficiently testify how entirely we agree with you in your opinion of the corruption and licentiousness of our servants. The horrible abuses committed in the carrying on the inland trade the vast sums extorted for restitution and for donations the contempt and violation of our most positive orders and lastly the glaring frauds known and connived at in the collection of the revenues at Burdwan and Midnapore amply justify your opinion that all ranks are tainted with it and we readily conceive the difficulty you were under how to fill up the Council. Peace and tranquility could not be said to be firmly established while so factious and licentious a spirit prevailed and you therefore did well to extend the construction of those words to an act so essentially necessary as the calling down the four gentlemen from Madras.

23 We are convinced the gentlemen who agreed in this measure were actuated by the warmest zeal for our interest but hope no such necessity will ever occur again we do not mean that it shall be established as a precedent for future times reserving the regulation and appointment of our servants to ourselves

as the factors who are worthy of promotion and that you do this free from all partiality and according to the best of your judgment. We saw the necessity of this measure so strongly at the time of our despatches to you per *Mercury* that we then directed Messrs Russell, Aldersly and Kelsall to proceed from Fort St George to your Presidency and now confirm the appointment of Mr Floyer to the station you have called him to and direct that he rank between Mr Kelsall and Mr Campbell and after these gentlemen you will observe the directions laid down in our last letter for filling up the vacancies in Council

25 We have received the remonstrance from our servants at your Presidency on the occasion of calling down the gentlemen from Fort St George Had they confined themselves to that appeal to their masters in a case wherein they thought themselves injured, we should have thought it neither unbecoming nor inconsistent with the rules of our service, but when they presume to form combinations to insult Government, they give the fullest confirmation of the propriety of the very measure they complain of for there cannot be a stronger proof of a general licentiousness than such a combination denotes The refusal of Mr Majendie to reply to the questions relative to the indignities intended to be offered the President to the Committee, and to the gentlemen then expected from Fort St George, clearly indicates the truth of the charge How far we may be influenced by the favorable mention Lord Clive makes of him in his letter to us will depend on his behaviour when he arrives This subject is treated at large in the Public Letter, so we shall here only add, that we shall never think the great end of permanency [sic] to our acquisitions, for which we have vested you with such ample powers is obtained, till you have established that subordination among our servants so essentially necessary in all well regulated governments but more particularly at a juncture when the example of disunion among yourselves, may tend to depreciate the dignity of our Government in the eyes of the natives

26 And here we cannot help expressing our concern that in such an important affair as restoring order and subordination among our servants, that there was a want of unanimity We were in expectation that Mr Sumner would have heartily seconded Lord Clive in his salutary endeavors for that purpose Judge then of our surprize in finding that gentleman's opposition to the suspension of Mr Majendie and to the depriving those junior servants of *dustuks* who had so notoriously misbehaved

27 We do not wonder that gentlemen who in the high stations they have passed through have themselves set those examples of licentiousness and corruption on which the measure of calling down the gentlemen from Madras was founded, should be forward in testifying their disapprobation, yet their joining in such a remonstrance (they who were not injured by it) sets the weakness of their judgment in a very strong light Mr Pl[a]ydell is already dismissed our service for his corrupt conduct on the succession of the present *Soubah*

28 With respect to Mr Marriot we find a charge against him by Mr Bolts in his letter from Benaris dated the 12th August 1765 of his having held the office of mint master which he had obtained by earnest solicitation from

the King and we see he acknowledges the fact in his letter to you the 1st October 1765 in which he offers to refund the profits he had made on the Company's money coined in his mint. His accepting an office by which he becomes accountable to another power is so unconstitutional repugnant to the nature of our service and a violation of the orders on your Consultations of the 13th May 1762 and 5th of March 1763 and 4th January 1764 that we cannot overlook it. However as this affair was under your consideration we shall defer our further censure until we receive the result of your enquiry

29 This is one among the many instances of the great deviation from all the established rules of our service. Another violation of all former customs attended with the most fatal consequences appears very frequently in the course of your proceedings we mean the correspondence carried on with the Government's officers indiscriminately by all ranks of our servants. We remark with pleasure the regulation you have established on this subject. We expect you to be very attentive to a strict compliance therewith and that you immediately suspend or dismiss any of our servants that break through them

30 We recommend it to you to put the most extensive construction on the powers we have vested in you to correct all abuses. It is impossible for us to point out remedies for malversations that have been hitherto unheard of. The covenants guard against donations the 9th para of our letter to you of the 17th May last forbids the holding of farms the 48th paragraph of the General Letter of that date forbids the lending money to the natives at more than 12 per cent interest and we now make it a standing order that no servant of the Company nor Englishman residing under their protection shall hold any post office or employ under any country power whatever

31 We condemn in the strongest manner that spirit of cavilling and declamation which appears throughout Mr Leicester's minutes; we disapprove the obstacles he raised to every proposal tending to a reformation in our service and he who had experienced the lenity of the Committee in not suspending him for his conduct in the deputation was one of the last who ought to have charged the President and General Carnac with a design to subvert the civil power by military force. We therefore very much approve your suspending him the service

sorry that he could not be immediately compelled to make restitution of such sums at least as are proved to have come to his hands by such unjust means

33 We are very glad to find you continue on friendly terms with Suja Dowla, and we flatter ourselves the regard you shew in relaxing from the letter of the treaty with him respecting the time stipulated for the payment of the money due to us will have a good effect, we wish you to inculcate in Suja Dowla the idea that we have no views of extending our possessions, no interest that can clash with his, and that fidelity in our mutual engagement must give strength to both and be productive of mutual harmony between the Company and him

34 We cannot but be anxious for the continuance of Colonel Smith's brigade at Illahabad We hope you recalled that detachment before the rains set in, we cannot admit their being kept there as a protection to the King's person Our engagements extend no further than the payment of the sums stipulated by the treaty, his revenues must furnish him with the means of defending himself, and we highly approve you[r] discouraging his attempts on Delhi and we positively direct that you do not on any pretence whatsoever support him in such a measure

35 We should be glad to hear your negotiations with the Mharattas succeed In our letter of the 24th December 1765, we directed you to give us the best plan you could of the Bengal frontier on the Orissa side, we hope to receive it by the next years ships

36 We have the pleasure to assure you we highly approve your conduct in general and we most earnestly recommend it to you to persevere in the same zealous attention to our interest

37 If the presence of any of the members of the Select Committee can at any time be dispensed with, we have no objection to their being employed in the chiefships of such subordinate factories as their rank may entitle them to, provided it shall appear to you compatible with the Company's interest, and that there shall at all times be three members on the spot

We are,

Your loving friends,

Geo Dudley / Thos Rous / Rob Jones /  
Chas Cutts / Fred Pigou / Hen Savage /  
J Purling / Jno Harrison / Christ Baron /  
Thos Saunders / Jos DuPré / J Cres-  
wicke / E H Cruttenden / Geo Cuming /  
Jno Roberts / J Pardoe / Peter DuCane  
Jr / Luke Scrafton / Charles Chambers /  
F W Barrington / Edwd Wheler / Geo  
Wombwell

London,  
21 November 1766  
[Per *Hector*, *Lord Holland*  
and *Latham*]

## LETTER DATED 21 NOVEMBER 1766

*State of Company's affairs to be discussed in Parliament—unjust and oppressive conduct of the servants—Clive's intended tour of all provinces—hope for his further stay of one year in Bengal*

TO the Right Honourable Robert Lord Clive, Baron of Plassey Knight of the Most Noble Order of the Bath President and Governor of Fort William in Bengal.

My Lord

1 We have received your Lordship's letter by the *Grenville* and *Kent* which confirm us in the favorable opinion we had entertained of the measures taken by your Lordship and the Select Committee for establishing our affairs in Bengal on an advantageous and permanent footing

2 We are thoroughly sensible how irksome it must be to struggle against the corruption and licentiousness of almost a whole settlement We persuade ourselves the powers vested in your Lordship jointly with the Select Committee by our letter per *Mercury* will have facilitated the task of reformation and put into your Lordship's power to establish such a system of economy and subordination as can neither be shaken by the combination of many nor the designs of any one man in our service

3 Our letters per *Mercury* and by the present dispatch will convince your Lordship that your zealous endeavours for the Company's welfare will meet with the firmest support from us

4 We saw the necessity of appointing some of our senior servants from Fort St George by our last despatch and we have now confirmed the appointment of Mr Floyer to your establishment and hope with the assistance of those gentlemen your Lordship will be able to reduce every department in our service under proper regulations

5 We received notice in September last from His Majesty's ministers that it was probable the state of the Company's affairs would be called for in Parliament this session when it is likely the unjust and oppressive conduct of our servants will become the object of their attention We are proceeding in that duty we owe to the Company and to the national honour in calling those servants who are come home to an account who have been guilty of frauds oppression and extortion A bill is already filed in Chancery against Mr Johnstone and others are preparing as well for the sums taken from the young Nabs as for the frauds committed in the collection of the revenues of Burdwan and Jellawore and Midnapore

6 We hope the proceedings will awaken our servants to a sense of their duty and convince them that how much so ever the frequent practice of such criminalities may have familiarized them to it it must be to the detriment in all respects and shall constantly bring the abuses in them to a full account

7 We observe with great pleasure your Lordship's intention of making the tour of the provinces, we persuade ourselves it will very much tend to conciliate the minds of the people to our administration and will furnish your Lordship with that local knowledge and experience which is so necessary to understand the separate interest of each province, and to form a judgment of the conduct of the administration at the capital

8 In our letters to your Lordship of the 2nd and 17th of May last we represented the great importance of your Lordship's continuing in Bengal until the great affairs which required your presence were settled upon a permanent footing, we now repeat our request and persuade ourselves of your Lordship's cheerful concurrence

We are,  
My Lord,

Your Lordship's loving friends,

J Creswicke / E H Cruttenden / Geo  
Cuming / Jno Roberts / J Pardoe /  
Peter DuCane Jr / Luke Scrafton /  
Charles Chambers / F W Barrington /  
Edwd Wheler / Geo Wombwell / Geo  
Dudley / Thos Rous / Rob Jones /  
Chas Cutts / Fredk Pigou / Heny  
Savage / J Purling / Chrstr Baron /  
Jos DuPré / Jno Harrison / Thos  
Saunders

London,  
the 21st November, 1766  
[Per *Hector*, Lord Holland  
and *Latham*]

29

## LETTER DATED 24 NOVEMBER 1766

My Lord and Gentlemen,

[1] I have the pleasure of acquainting you by order of the gentlemen in the direction, with the safe arrival at Plymouth on the 21st instant of the ship *Admiral Watson* with your advices of the 24th March last, Captain Money having put into that port for the recovery of his sickness

[2] Although it appears from the Master Attendant's letter that the *Ponsborne* was to be despatched the 10th of April, two days after the *Admiral Watson*, yet as the former had not reached St Helena the 26th September when the latter sailed from thence with the *Harcourt* (not yet arrived), it is doubted whether that ship would gain her passage

[3] The *Admiral Watson* and *Harcourt* left no ship at the St Helena, but the *Asia* was early expected

I am very respectfully,  
My lord and gentlemen,

Your most obedient humble servant,  
R J, Secy

East India House, London,  
the 24th November, 1766

## LETTER DATED 19 DECEMBER 1766

*Parliamentary enquiry into Company's affairs—appointment of a committee of the House of Commons for the purpose*

OUR President and Council at Fort William in Bengal.

1 Our last General Letter dated the 21st November and letter to the Select Committee of the same date were transmitted by the ship *Hector* which having passed her destined port of St. Hellens and afterwards received the packets and passengers off the Isle of Wight proceeded on her voyage the 1st instant the *Lord Holland* and *Latham* carried other transcripts of those letters, and sailed on their voyages the 16th instant from the Downes

2 This letter goes by the ships *Calcutta* and *Triton* and *Houghton* the transcripts by the two latter will be dispatched to you from Fort St George To the *Calcutta's* invoices and bills of lading you are referred for the consignments as well from hence as Madeira

5 We are now to advise you that in consequence of the resolution mentioned in our General Letter of the 21st November last, we have drawn upon you by the *Calcutta*, the following setts of bills of exchange at the rate of two shillings and one penny for the current rupee and at thirty days sight

	CRs	£ s d
One sett for current rupees five thousand seven hundred and sixty payable to Mr Thomas Sheeles in full for pounds sterling six hundred received of Mrs Ann Elizabeth Sheeles dated the 4th December 1766	5760	600
One sett for current rupees five thousand and forty payable to William Holland or George Vansittart in full for pounds sterling five hundred and twenty five received of Frances Fowlk dated 15th Decr 1766	5040	525
One set for current rupees four thousand eight hundred payable to James Alexander Esqr for the use of Matthew Davie in full for pounds sterling five hundred received of the Revd Mr Joseph Davie dated 16th December 1766	4800	500
One sett for current rupees nine hundred and sixty payable to Adam Dawson in full for pounds sterling one hundred received of Thomas Saunders Esqr dated 18th December 1766	960	100
One sett for current rupees two thousand four hundred payable to Richd Becher Esqr in full for pounds sterling two hundred and fifty received of Mr James Norman dated 19th December 1766	2400	250
One sett for current rupees three thousand eight hundred and forty payable to Mr Thomas Sheeles in full for pounds sterling four hundred received of Mrs Ann Sheeles dated 19th December 1766	3840	400
	Rs 22800	£ 2375

We are,

Your loving friends,

Geo Dudley / Thos Rous / Fredk.  
 Pigou / J Purling / Thos Saunders /  
 George Cuming / John Roberts / F W  
 Barrington / Charles Chambers / Peter  
 Ducane Junr / Christr Baron / E H  
 Cruttenden / Will Barwell / J Pardoe /  
 John Harrison / Edwd Wheler / Jos  
 DuPré

London,  
 19 December 1766  
 [Per *Calcutta*, *Triton*  
 and *Houghton*]





# LETTERS TO COURT



## LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1764

*Movement of ships—council for the collection of Burdwan revenues—death of Majors Adams and Knox—services of Capt Archibald Swinton commended—repatriation of French prisoners—list of bills of exchange*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 We addressed you in a letter under the established heads dated the  
 Cons 16th Janry 19th December 1763 by the *Osterley* which ship received her  
 dispatches at Ingelee the 31st of same month A duplicate  
 of our said address now goes by the *Boscawen*

2 We have since had the honor to receive your commands of the 6th  
 Cons 19th Janry and 27th April 1763 by the ship *British King*, which after  
 landing at Fort St George her consignments for that Presidency,  
 arrived safe here the 18th of January

3 When we transmitted our last address, neither the *Lord Mansfield* or  
 Cons 5, 6 & 19th Janry *Lord Bute* had arrived from Bombay They have, however,  
 since imported together with the *Earl of Middlesex*, which  
 ship the gentlemen there thought proper to add in order to  
 transport to us, a reinforcement of troops, which we had requested they might  
 send to assist our affairs

4 In our last we advised your honors of the appointment intended for  
 the several ships, we should have on hand, and according to that disposition  
 Cons 6th Feby the *Lord Clive* has proceeded to Fort St George and Fort  
 Marlbro', the *Deptford* to Fort St George to fill up for  
 England, and the *Boscawen* is now under dispatch from hence The saltpetre  
 and bales for the *Pigot* are not yet arrived from the subordinates As soon  
 as they do, we shall begin loading her cargo and endeavour all in our power  
 to prevent her being late

5 After the arrival of the *British King* and Bombay ships, we took into  
 consideration afresh the manner in which we had best employ them, seeing  
 it would not be in our power to dispatch them directly to Europe and it was  
 accordingly resolved as follows

6 That one ship, the *Lord Mansfield*, should be stationed to return to  
 Bombay, agreeable to the desire of the gentlemen there, with 200 tons of salt-  
 petre in order to enable them to dispatch their second ship to Europe

7 That the *Bute* should proceed to Fort St George, with a supply of rice  
 and part of the Bombay detachment, and from thence go to Batavia to bring  
 us a cargo of arrack, timber and plank, of which we are much in want for the  
 Company's use Agreeable to this destination we expect she may return here  
 by the month of October, when we intend to dispatch her an early ship to  
 your honors.

8. That the *Earl of Middlesex* should proceed to the island of Mauritius with dispatches for the French government in order to receive over and carry back to Fort Marlbro the gentlemen who were taken as hostages and the Chinese families who were made prisoners of war at that settlement. That she should at same time take on board a further supply of stores for the West Coast and having performed this service, that she should return to Bombay to go home from thence the first of next season. Knowing the great usefulness of the Chinese families under the government of Fort Marlbro we chose to take the first opportunity of making this destination and as we imagine the French will not hesitate in giving them their release we hope it may prove of material service to that settlement and as it will easily be performed within the season the ship loses no time by it.

9. The *British King* we at first intended to let at freight with a view to retain in our hands as much money as possible for the ensuing years investments but no proposals offered for freighting her and we  
 Cons. 2nd & 14th Feby have therefore resolved to consign her to the *supra* cargo at China with a loading of cotton and lead and two lacks of rupees in ready money as well to answer for providing her with a homeward bound cargo as to form a stock for any other casual ship they may have thrown on their hands without sufficient provision.

10. Of these several destinations, we have given due advice to the other Presidencies and the ships dispatches shall accordingly be completed without loss of time.

11. The President having received advice from the Chief of Vizagapatam that about one hundred and fifty bales of the Madras investment were lying at that place for want of a conveyance we intend to dispatch  
 Con 6th Feby thither the *Cootie* schooner to take them in and carry them to Madras imagining they may be wanted there to complete the cargo of the *Deptford*.

12. The *Nancy* ketch belonging to Fort Marlbro establishment still remains on our hands for want of opium and we are sorry  
 Con 6th Feby to observe to your honors that we do not think the conduct of the gentlemen at Patna has in this particular been free from blame for since the time of their re-establishing that factory considerable purchases of that article have been made by private merchants. We beg leave to refer you to a perusal of our letters for the order sent them regarding the opium and to their answers for the reasons they have not been able to comply with these orders. By our last letter wrote them you will observe we have directed them to send down some immediately and on the arrival of the first parcel the fire mounted ketch shall be dispatched.

cannot therefore omit mentioning him to your honours, as an officer well deserving your regard, and one on whom you may always depend for such assistance and protection as he shall have it in his power to give to the Company's interests in India

14 Agreeably to what we mentioned in the 48 paragraph of our letter of the 19th December, finding that the revenues of the Burdwan province from being increased into a number of branches became too extensive for the management of any one person, we have stationed two more gentlemen there as council and given them besides, a writer as assistant We have recommended to them upon this footing to part off the business in branches under their different inspection, and we doubt not if such a plan is carefully pursued that much benefit may accrue to the Company in detecting the frauds of the black servants and preventing the oppression of the riots[ryots] or tenants

15 We must again commend the diligence of Mr Johnstone, which has always been exerted with the most unwearied application and this good effect that he completed the payment of the Company's share of the rents Although considering the large ballances due from the farmers, we have still reason to believe that some of the lands at last sale were increased beyond their real value and produce At the end of the present Bengal year, we shall have an exact account of what the ballances are and endeavour them to settle the rents on a reasonable footing

16 We acquainted your honors in our last address that we were doing our utmost to engage as many men of the 84th Regiment as it was possible to remain in the country and that it was judged it would be essential therefore to admit some of their officers into the Company's service We have accordingly received five captains and five subalterns of that corps and have enlisted of non-commissioned officers and private men, three hundred and fifty two agreeably to the certificate granted the commanding officer, of which a copy is transmitted a number in the packet We have also received into our stores, the arms etc of the regiment, and enclosed in the packet are copies of the receipts which we have granted for them to the commanding officer

17 It is with the deepest regret we have here to mention to your honors the death of Major Adams,<sup>2</sup> who was carried off by a short illness immediately after his return to Calcutta Although the resolution he had come to of returning to his native country had put a period for this juncture to his services in behalf of the Company, yet his untimely and unexpected loss, was not less the subject of our grief and concern, and in relating it we cannot help adding this small tribute of praise which we think due to his memory—that in his capacity as an officer, his conduct and intrepidity rendered him fit for any station of command, and in his character as a gentleman, his virtues qualified him for all the duties of society

18 We are sorry we are obliged at the same time to advise you of the loss of a very brave and good officer in Major Knox,<sup>3</sup> who died at Patna the 28th of last month, he had long laboured under a bad state of health, which however, there is the greatest reason to believe was brought on by the constant vigilance and fatigue to which he

subjected himself in executing the duties of his station. He may therefore justly be said to have sacrificed his life in a service to which he was always a credit and by the members of which as well civil as military he is now universally lamented.

19 By the death of Major Adams the command of the 84th Regiment devolved on Major Richard Sherlock who with seven officers and thirty men now embark for Europe on this ship the *Boscawen*. A particular list of their names is transmitted as usual a number in the packet. The remainder of the regiment who are either unwilling to remain in the country or being worn out are become unfit for service will take passage on our next ship the *Pigot*.

20 In the 72nd paragraph of our last address we acquainted you of our having offered the commission vacant by the death of Major Irving to  
 Cons. 6th Feby Capt Charles Long another officer of the Kings Regiment and having accordingly obtained Major Adams's consent to his stay in the country we appointed him a Major. But upon the death of Major Adams he advised us that that event had made a sensible alteration in his affairs and requested our permission to resign his commission which was complied with.

21 At the time we appointed Major Long it was also agreed in consideration of the merit and good behaviour of Captain Champion during his  
 Cons. 12th Decbr long standing in the service and particularly for the good conduct and bravery he had testified in the course of the late campaign to promote him to a majority by brevet. From the death of Major Knox and resignation of Major Long he now becomes the second Major on our establishment and as we esteem him a capable and deserving officer we beg leave to recommend him to your honors to be confirmed in that rank.

22 In our Consultation of the 12th of December you will observe an application from Captain Jennings likewise for a commission as Major wherein he alleges he received your promise before he left England that he should rise to that rank. But as you had not intimated any such intention to us and as we had never yet had a major of artillery upon this establishment we did not choose to grant his request until we are informed of your further pleasure in this respect.

all circumstances we are persuaded that your honors sensible of his zeal for your service, will show him marks of your favor and regard

24 The great want of capable and experienced men to assist in conducting our engineering business has induced us to entertain Captain Lewis Du Gloss belonging to the artillery establishment at Bombay and Mr George Burghall in that branch To the former  
Cons 9th Feby  
30th Janry we have granted a brevet commission as Captain intending to employ him at the New Fort under Captain Polier, the latter we have appointed a Captain Lieutenant, and given him directions to proceed to Chittagong to take charge of the works which are to be carried on there

25 We have received from Chittagong Mr Plaisted's survey and opinion in regard to building a fort and factory at that place, and having consulted our engineer, Mr Polier, we have directed a plan to be  
Cons 16th Feby. formed according to his opinion, but we shall not begin this work until we are fully acquainted with the nature of the soil With other necessary information and when begun, we shall proceed in it with the greatest economy

26 Having received a more circumstantial account in a minute of Mr Leycester's of the directions the gentlemen at Dacca had given for securing the treasure, removing the sick and wounded and in every  
Cons 16th Feby respect providing for making their retreat from the factory in a regular manner, it appears that they left no means untried for effecting those purposes and that they were unavoidably disappointed by the irregularity of the seapoys of which a great part deserted and the remainder embarked in the boats without orders and while the gentlemen were yet in the factory endeavouring to save the treasure We are therefore satisfied that it was not in their power to prevent this loss in their then unfortunate circumstances, and we must say further in commendation of the gentlemen of that factory, that the investment provided this year is as good in quality as any which has ever been received from thence, and notwithstanding these troubles, very little deficient in quantity, which must be in great measure attributed to their early return with the detachment from Meckley and their great diligence in collecting in the effects which were dispersed and outstanding

27 Mr Campbell, our Assay Master, arrived in the *British King*, and  
Cons 26th Janry  
14th Feby we have directed a proper office to be built for conducting his business

28 Mr Bowen, the gentleman who arrived this season by your appointment to be one of the chaplains at this Presidency, not choosing to remain in the country, has returned to England in one of his Majesty's ships Before his departure he discharged his bond

29 After finishing our letter by the *Osterley*, the account which we had directed to be drawn out of the charge of French prisoners was prepared and delivered in Our Secretary therefore forwarded it in that ship's book packet, and a duplicate copy is now transmitted, also the General Books of this Presidency ending April 1760

30 As no commissaries are yet arrived on the part of the French nation and we have still about fifty prisoners remaining on our hands, we have sent



home thirty by this ship agreeable to the list transmitted in her packet and the remainder shall embark on the *Pigot*

31 By this ship we have also sent home other samples of the powder and charcoal prepared by Mr Smith and the Export Warehouse Keeper having  
 Cons. 2d Feby acquainted us that in her cargo are included 13 bales of new musters of cloths purchased at Barnagore marked Muster No 1 to 13 we beg leave thus to refer them to your honors particular inspection.

32 Since writing thus far we have had advice from Madraas of the arrival of your ship *Pitt* there the 7th ultimo and by a country ship imported from  
 Cons. 20th Feby thence we have received your packet by her for this Presidency and have therefore to reply in part to your General Letter of the 13th May 1763

33 We observe and shall pay due regard to your orders respecting the *Winchelsea*. That ship is just now returned here from her voyage to Bombay and the freighters conformable to the conditions of their agreement have declared that the ship will be delivered over to the Company at the Presidency of Bombay

34 Agreeable to your directions we shall pay to Mr Van Sittart the amount of the commission<sup>s</sup> due him on the revenues of the lands and he begs leave here to render you his grateful acknowledgements for this fresh mark of your favor

35 In consequence of your orders in regard to Mr Batson we have recalled him from the chiefship of Patna and as Mr Spencer on his arrival  
 Cons. No. 48 will be next in succession to the Government we have appointed Mr Billers to the chiefship of Patna factory

36 We shall transmit to Bombay information of your orders in favour of Mr Spencer although as we learn that the *Speaker* arrived at Tellicherry the 7th of December we imagine they will have already received your commands by that ship.

37 We have laden and conigned to your honours by this ship the *Biscaren* sundry goods and merchandize amounting to current rupees 849 176-13 3 the particulars whereof are agreeable to the invoice and first bill of lading enclosed

38 We have also laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island of St Helena amounting to current rupees 1212 96 as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to the Governor and Council there

For William  
 the 26th February 1764



<i>Setts</i>	<i>Value received of</i>	<i>Current Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ Sterling</i>
1 Do Exct. to the estate of James Borind	7102	8-9	William Fullerton	828-12 7
1 The Presidt. & Co of Fort William	2538-	0-0	Lawrence Sullivan Esqre. for the use of the Marine Society	296- 2 0
1 John Grant and Russell Skinner Adms. to the estate of Major Adams Thos. Adams Acct. the estate of Captn Jno Irving	14397	9-6	Edward Irving	1679 14 5
1 Captn Charl Long	7300-	12-0	Himself	851 15- 1
1 Rand Marriott and Jno Graham Acct. the estate of Rd. Wilder	2533-	0-0	Willm McGwire and Ar Annesley	295-10 4
1 Anselm Beaumont	18549	6-6	George Challoner	2164- 1 11
1 Jno Graham Acct. of Lieut. Alex. Dow	2088-	14 3	Alexander Crant	243 14 1
1 Warren Hastings	59393-	7-6	Jno. Zeph Holwell Wm Birch and John Davis	6979 4 9
1 Do and Treasr Saul Hancock	5000-	0-0	Francis Sykes	583 6- 8
1 Captn. Charl. Marsh	49000-	0-0	Himself	5716-13 4
1 Captn. Hugh Grant	4463-	8-9	Alexander Crant	520-14 11
1 Samuel Middleton	857	2 3	Anne Lane	100-0 0
1 Anselm Beaumont	11100-	0-0	George Challoner	1295- 0- 0
1 Huzzuramull Execut to the estate of Omichund	1500-	0-0	The President or Treasurer of the Founding Hospital for the time being	175- 0 0
1 Do Execut to Do	1500-	0-0	Do or Do of the Magdalen Hospital for the time being	1 5- 0 0
1 William Billers Esqr	8571	6-9	William Billers Esqr	1000 0 0
1 Captn Charles Long	2130-	0-0	Himself	244 10 0
1 Willm. Majendie	1600-	0-0	Revd John James Majendie	186-13 4
<hr/> 44 Setts Current Rupee 609,971 3-0			<hr/> £ Sterling 71 157 9 1	

40 We have also drawn on you 98 setts payable at 3/4 per current rupee and 90 days after sight amounting to CRs 107,276 9 9 or £ Sterling 1 315 17 as follows:-

<i>Setts</i>	<i>Value received of</i>	<i>Current Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ Sterling</i>
1 Thos C. Le	1023-	9-0	George Byrne	120 0 0
1 J <sup>r</sup> Ashburner Acct Thos Anderson	17 511 6		Mr Ninian Ballantine	160 0 0

<i>Setts</i>	<i>Value received of</i>	<i>Current Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ Sterling</i>
1	Jas Ashburner	428- 9-3	Himself or order	50- 0- 0
1	Rusl Skinner Acct Sarah Mapletoft	4129-11-0	Sarah Mapletoft	481-15-11
1	Do Acct Captn Thos Tydd	4622- 6 6	Himself	539- 5- 7
1	Major Alex Champion	1885-11-3	Mrs Fis Champion and Mr Jno Edison	220- 0- 0
1	Rusl Skinner Acct M J Rowland	4285-11-6	Mrs Mary Rowland	500- 0- 0
1	John Bathoe Acct Hy Goodwin	171- 6 3	Robert Goodwin	20- 0- 0
1	Joseph Crabb	2000- 0 0	Himself	233- 6- 8
1	Geo Williamson and Phil Milner Dacres Exrs to Edwd Oakes	675-15 6	William Davis	78-17- 3
1	Do and Do Exrs of Sam Howitt died	1714- 4-6	Mrs Eliz Howitt	200- 0- 0
1	Phil Milner Dacres	857- 2-3	Thos Stone Street	100- 0- 0
1	James Bonwicke	1714- 4 6	Himself	200- 0- 0
1	Richard Barwell	573-11-3	Richd and William Bai- well	66-18- 7
1	Captn Charls Marsh	4285-11-6	Himself	500- 0- 0
1	Captn Robt Aber- crombie	4285-11-6	Himself	500- 0- 0
1	Capt Hugh Grant	1807-12-0	Alex Grant	210-18- 1
1	Benjamin Randall	257- 2-0	Richd Palmer	30- 0- 0
1	Captn John Tate	4285-11-6	Himself	500- 0- 0
1	William Billers	857- 2-3	Thos Walker	100- 0- 0
1	Thomas Rumbold	1885-11-6	Francis Southby	220- 0- 0
1	Captn Archibald Swinton	857- 2-3	John Swinton Junior	100- 0- 0
1	Chars Child Acct Jno Thwaite	600- 0-0	Richd Cooke	70- 0- 0
1	Do Acct John Corsar	428- 9-3	Messrs Johnstone and Sothringham	50- 0- 0
1	Chas Child Acct Lt H J Powell	2162-10-0	Lt Henry Powell	252- 6- 4
1	Richard Pembroke	2000- 0-0	Himself	233- 6- 8
1	Lt John Hartland	2123-12-0	Himself	247-15- 5
1	Lt Thos Wiltshire	1929- 6-0	Himself	225- 2- 0
1	Peter Gallopine	800- 0-0	Ann and Hannah Gallo- pine	93- 6- 8
1	Henry Plowman	4285-11-6	Miss Eliza Motte	500- 0- 0
1	John Mackmath	2561-12-6	William Fullerton	298-17- 5
1	Do	1714- 4-6	Granville Elliott Mack- math	200- 0- 0
1	John Taylor	514- 4-6	Mary Gleen	60- 0- 0
1	Lt John Grant	857- 2-3	Himself	100- 0- 0

<i>Setts</i>	<i>Value received of</i>	<i>Current Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ Sterling</i>
1	Lt. John Grant	428- 9 3	Himself	50- 0- 0
1	Ralph Ridley	4285-11-6	William Charlton	500- 0- 0
1	Robt. Brown	2160- 0-0	George Dunbar	252 0- 0
1	Ascans. Willm. Senior	3554 10-0	Robt. Halsey Balwick Nassau Thos. Senior and Miss Rachael Senior	414 14 1
1	John Cartier	1971 7-0	Stephen Law	230- 0- 0
1	John Bathoe Acct. Wm Steers	900- 0-0	William Steers	105- 0- 0
1	Phil. Milner Dacres	693- 4-0	John Henry Mertins	80-17 7
1	Fitz Owen Jones	897 13-0	Himself	104-14 11
1	John Burdett	1285-11-6	Thomas Burdett	150-0 0
1	Edward Hardwicke	3000- 0-0	Thomas Hardwicke	350- 0 0
1	Ralph Leycester Esqre Acct. John Robinson	4285-11-6	Christopher Baron and George Mc Auley	500- 0- 0
1	Ralph Leycester	1200- 0-0	Rev Henry Lushington	140- 0- 0
1	Do Do	2000- 0-0	Ralph and Geo Leycester	233- 6- 8
1	Rand Marriott Senior	2160- 0-0	Lt. William Browne	257 0- 0
1	Charles Rogers	1000- 0-0	Willm Rogers	116-13- 4
1	John Davidson	1714 4-6	Alexander Grant	700- 0 0
1	William Bolts	800- 0-0	Mrs. Elizabeth Fenwicke	93 6- 8
1	Capt. Arthur Morris Acct. the estate of Thomas Philips decd.	3000- 0-0	Capt. Arthur Morris	350 0- 0
1	Willm Magee Acct. Geo. Hay	857 2 3	James Rannie	100- 0 0
1	Do Accto. Hugh Baillie	428- 9 3	Hugh Baillie	50- 0- 0
1	John Johnstone Acct. Robt. Brooke	809 12-3	Robt. Brooke and Thos Pattle	94 9 5
1	Major John Carnac	685-11-3	Charles Bolleau	80- 0- 0
1	James Moore	4285-11-6	Mabella Moore	500- 0 0
1	William Billers	999 13-9	Himself	116-13 0
<hr/> 58 Setts Current Rupees			£ Sterling	12,515 12 0

Fort William  
the 28th February 1764

We are  
Honble Sirs  
Your most faithful humble servants  
Henry Van Suttart / Wm Billers / War  
ren Hastings / Randall Marriott / Sam  
Millet n / Ralph Leycester / John  
Burdett

## LETTER DATED 20 FEBRUARY 1764

*Flight of Mir Qasim to Shujaud-Daulah's country—Shujaud-Daulah asked to surrender Mir Qasim—Mir Jaffar's endeavour to procure sanads from Shah Alam—friction between Company's and Mir Jaffar's Officials—siege of Madura—mutiny in the army*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 In our address by the *Osterley* upon country affairs dated the 19th December, we advised fully of the success of our arms, and that the late Nabob Meer Cossim incapable of making any further resistance had fled into Shuja Dowla's country with the remains of his troops, effects and treasures

2 We were in hopes that Shuja Dowla in compliance with our demand would have given him up to us, or at least have made him prisoner and seized upon his effects, but we find he proceeded without interruption through Barnaris and Elahabad to the banks of the Jumna where the King and Shuja Dowla are encamped His reception at the court appears to have been rather favourable than otherwise owing we suppose to the influence of his money, yet we do not apprehend they will be prevailed on to give him any assistance or engage in a war with us at a time when they are scarcely able to support themselves against the other chiefs of the empire who wish but an opportunity of reducing Shuja Dowla

3 As the surest means of deterring as well Shuja Dowla as all others from attempting to disturb the peace of the provinces, we keep our whole army on the banks of the Caramnassa and the President has wrote repeatedly to Shuja Dowla that we shall never accede to any treaty of alliance or friendship with him until Meer Cossim is either delivered up or brought to justice for his cruelty and oppression Before the dispatch of the *Pigot*, we shall probably know for certain what will be his fate In the mean time Major Carnac is gone to take the command of the army, and we have given him instructions to reduce the field expences, and put the troops in cantonments as soon as it shall appear consistent with the safety of the country

4 The Nabob remains likewise on the banks of the Caramnassa He is endeavouring to procure the *saneds* or grants for the *soubadary* of these provinces from the King, and in his last letter to the President advises that he was in daily expectation of receiving them He seems to think it of very great consequence to obtain these grants, and we were informed had offered the immediate payment of nineteen lacks of rúpees, and an obligation for twenty eight lacks yearly to be remitted to the King As we knew it would ill suit the Nabob's circumstances to comply

Cons 16th Janry

with such engagements, and that it would incapacitate him from making good his payments to the Company the restitution for losses in trade during the late troubles, and providing for his own necessary expences, objects of much more consequence than the possession of the grants, we therefore strenuously advised the Nabob not to put himself to any such charge or enter into any such obligation as might distress his own affairs but rather trust to our influence to procure him the grants with little expence and to our force to secure his government whether he was possessed of the grants or not For it must be confessed those titles are of little consequence in the present situation of the affairs of the empire. The King is the slave of Shuja Dowla and according to all appearance will never be in possession of his capital nor of any real authority All remittances said to be made to the King are in truth so much money thrown into the hands of Shuja Dowla to be employed perhaps against the very person that gave it

5 As yet the Nabob has made but a small advance in the payment of the thirty lacks<sup>1</sup> stipulated for the Company's losses and expences We expect him next month in Calcutta when we shall procure from him assignments for the ballance of this money to be paid in such places as may be most convenient for supplying the investment and we have in view at the same time to settle with the Nabob some necessary regulations for establishing due limits of authority between his officers, and our subordinate factories agents and *gomastahs*. At present they frequently clash and occasion disputes of a very bad tendency the more so as they never fail to be represented on both sides with violent exaggerations. Already you will see many instances in the Nabob's letters entered in the book of country correspondence particularly No. [ ] and containing complaints against Mr Batson our Chief at Patna whose answer and explanation are likewise transmitted in the book of letters received.

6 We have been advised from Fort St. George of there [sic] having been obliged to raise the siege of Madura representing at the same time the absolute necessity of reducing that place and their resolution to  
 Com 30th Decr attack it again as soon as the season would permit In  
 1 63 order to assist them in this design to the utmost of our power we determined to send to Fort St. George the whole of the reinforcement received from Bombay and the most part of them are already embarked

We are with the greatest respect  
 Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

Your most faithful humble servants,  
 Henry Van Sittart / Wm Billers /  
 Warren Hastings / Randh Marria /  
 Sam Muddleton / Ralph Leicester /  
 John Burdett

Fort William  
 the 30 February 1764

#### *Postscript*

7 Since closing our foregoing address we have been alarmed with an accident as sudden as unexpected and which had well nigh exposed them

provinces to fresh disturbances and thrown your affairs into greater danger than all the strength of your enemies. The soldiers of our army which was encamped about six miles from the Caramnassa having conceived that there was a design of stopping their share of the donation promised them by the Nabob, or that some injustice had been done them in the division, which notion we suppose had been industriously propagated and aggravated by some among them who wished to raise a defection, assembled themselves by general agreement on the morning of the 11th instant, and having formed and chosen themselves a leader, loaded their musketts, fixed their bayonets and marched off declaring they would go over to Shuja Dowla and Meer Cossim. The Nabob went out to them and offered them immediate payment of their share of the first division of the donation but they were not satisfied and continued their march as far as the banks of the Caramnassa, where Captain Jennings<sup>2</sup> who at that time commanded the army and the rest of the officers followed, and at length prevailed on all the English to return to their colours but a French serjeant with about 150 soldiers of that nation crossed the Caramnassa and proceeded towards Banaris.

8 The troops on their return to camp were paid the money the Nabob promised, and the next day the whole body of seapoys followed their example, took to their arms, and in the same licentious terms demanded their share, nor could they be quieted until they were paid 20 rupees each man which was more than their share came to.

9 By our last advices from Capt Jennings, all was quiet again and the only loss we have sustained is that of the Frenchmen above mentioned, a loss no much to be lamented as it is highly probable these were the promoters and firmenters of this extraordinary revolt.

10 But our greatest concern is the difficulty of restoring good order to an army who have got such a spirit of licentiousness amongst them, and have proceeded to such lengths unpunished. Lest therefore any further disorders should happen or the advice of this dissention should encourage Shuja Dowla and Meer Cossim to engage in fresh attempts for disturbing the provinces, we have thought it necessary to request of Commodore Tinker to remain with us in the *Medway*, and to stop that part of the Bombay Detachment which had not left the River.

11 Considering the great value of preserving the security of Bengal, we think this measure must appear to the other Presidencies entirely consistent with the general good. And as the Presidency of Fort St George will be strongly reinforced by the troops landed from the *Pitt*, those returning from Manilha<sup>3</sup> and the Bombay artillery company which went from hence in his Majesty's ship *York*, we flatter ourselves they will be able to prosecute the siege of Madura with success.

12 At the time when this meeting happened, Major Carmac [Carnac] and Major Champion were on their way to join the army, and we hope will have now reached the camp. We have wrote to Major Carmac our opinion and advice of the measures most proper to be taken on this occasion and we trust by his discretion and vigilance [*sic*] that he will be able to quiet the army and prevent any repetition of these irregularities, and we purpose in a few days



to reinforce him with a detachment of three hundred Europeans, that such as may appear to have been the promoters of this mutinous spirit may be removed.

Fort William  
the 27 February 1764

We are  
Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs  
Your most faithful humble servants,  
Henry Van Sittart / Wm Billers /  
Warren Hastings / Rand. Marriot /  
Sam Middleton / Ralph Leicester /  
John Burdett

## 3

## LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1764

*Stoppage of payment to Lord Clive on account of his jagir—list of bills of exchange*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> United  
Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

- 1 We addressed you last under date the 20th ultimo by the *Roscaren*  
Cons 19 March. which ship departed from Ingellee the 8th instant and  
quitted her pilot the 11th
- 2 We have since dispatched the *Earl of Middlesex Bute* and *Lord*  
Cons 5 & 8 Mar *Mansfield* to proceed on the voyages of which your honors  
were advised in our said address of the 20th ultimo

3 By a Macao ship arrived on the Malabar Coast we have received letters from the supra cargoes at Canton dated 8th November 1763 which advise us of the safe arrival there of all the ships of the season 1762 excepting the *Salentine* *Glatton* and *Pocock* which they were afraid had lost their passage and the *Earl Temple* which they apprehended to be lost on the coast of Luconia

4 The same advices inform us that the large supplies of treasure consigned to them from hence and from Fort St George would enable them to complete the cargoes of the nine ships then at Wampo but that unfortunately the distress of the Deputy Governor and Council at Manilla for money to pay the troops having obliged them to take out of the *Houghton* and *Harke* 44 chests of treasure they should not have it in their power to leave any stock in the hands of the residents and that therefore a supply early this season would be of the greatest assistance to the Company's trade under their management

- 5 We advised your honors in our last address that we had stationed

the *British King* to proceed to China with a cargo of cotton and lead, and two lacks of rupees in ready money, and she is accordingly  
 Cons 19th Mar this day dispatched But notwithstanding the earnest representation of the supra cargoes, the present situation of our own affairs, the large demands for our military expences, and for the provision of next year's investment, render it impossible for us either to increase her stock, or to be of any further assistance to them this season

6 In consequence of the indulgence which you have been pleased to grant Capt Howe for remaining with the *Winchelsea* another season in India, we have accepted a proposal from the present freighters, for  
 Cons 8 & 12 Mar prolonging the affreightment to the 11th February 1766 which is charter party day And Capt Howe on behalf of his owners has prolonged the ship's charter party with the Company to the same time

7 We duely observed the orders in your letter of the 26th April 1763, respecting Lord Clive's *jaghueer*, we at the same time received a letter from his Lordship, insisting that we should not refuse payment of this claim, and his attorney has accordingly presented a demand for four months now due, amounting to *sicca* rupees 1,18,451 We have in answer acquainted him that it is not in our power to comply with it and transmitted him a copy of your said orders for his satisfaction A copy of his Lordship's letter, you will find entered in our Consultation of the 26th January, and of the letter and account presented by his attorney after Consultation of the 12th instant The account you require of the payment already made to his Lordship, goes enclosed in the packet together with a copy of the *kistbundee* or terms of payment of the *jagheer*

8 As we learn from Capt Pigou, it will not be agreeable to your intentions, that the Russian officers, who came out on his ship<sup>1</sup> should proceed to China, we have returned them to Europe on this ship, the *Pigot*, and directed Capt Pigou to pay Capt Richardson one half the money which he received for the expence of their homeward bound passage

9 Three officers of the 84th and one of the 103rd Regiment embark on this ship for Europe, together with twenty seven now commissioned officers and private men belonging to different regiments which were in India A particular list of the whole is transmitted as usual, a number in the packet, as well as an amended list of those which embarked on the *Boscawen* after Major Sherlock had permitted a detachment of the 84th Regiment to remain another season in the country

10 Three of his Majesty's officers *vizt*, Lieut Hodsden and Crabb and Ensign Falck with about thirty men took their passage from hence to Madrass in the *York* and *Liverpool*, men of war, in order to go to Europe, in any of his Majesty's ships from the Coast and these are all that Commodore Tinker could accomodate.

11 We have likewise embarked on this ship sixteen more French prisoners agreeable to a list in the packet, and there now only remain here a few other persons who are at present sick in the hospital

12 Before we close our advices for this season, we beg leave again to take notice to your honors of the diligence and assiduity of our Secretary, Mr. Graham,<sup>2</sup> who notwithstanding the great increase of the business of this

Presidency in the two departments conducts it with great regularity and to our entire satisfaction. We must also mention Mr Majendie our Assistant Secretary as one who by his close application to business has already rendered himself a very capable and useful servant.

13 We have laden and consigned to your honors by this ship the *Pigot* sundry goods and merchandize amounting to current rupees 1048 100 the particulars whereof are agreeable to the invoice and first bill of lading enclosed.

14 We have also laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island of St Helena amounting to current rupees 1216 as 14 per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to the Governor and Council there.

We are with the greatest respect

Hon'ble Sirs

Your most faithful and obedient  
humble servants

Henry Van Sittart / Warren Hastings /  
H Watts / Sam Middleton / Ralph  
Leicester / John Burdett.

Fort William  
the 19th March 1764

*Postscript*

[15] We have drawn upon your honors by this ship 17 sets of bills of exchange at 365 days and the usual terms. The particulars whereof are as follows and amount in all to current rupees 241,540-5-9 £ Sterling 28 1/9 14 2

<i>Value received of</i>	<i>C Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ Str</i>
1 William Shewen	1714 4-6	Himself	200 0-0
1 Jno Graham Attys to Robt Campbell adm to the estate of Amelia Camp- bell deceased	1400 0-0	The Hon'ble Alex. Fraser Esqre	163 6-8
1 Jacob Carmac	857 2-3	John Carmac	100 0-0
1 Chas. Greenhull	1,071 6-9	Messrs. Adie and Laird	125 0-0
1 Geo Williamson	1,000 0-0	Elizabeth Howitt or order	116-13-4
1 Thomas Pearson	4,285 11-4	Daniel Braithwaite	500 0-0
1 James A Hiberner	4,285 11-4	Do	500 0-0
1 Joseph Jekyll	857 2-3	Jno Langmore Elias Bromsword and Tho- mas Jekyll	100 0-0
1 James Lister	3,000 0-0	James King or Order	350 0-0
1 Ditto	13,000 0-0	Messrs. Maklman Parry and King or either of their orders	1516 13-4
1 Henry Van Sittart Esqre	5,000 0-0	Arthur Van Sittart and Elnur I Boelhum	583 7-8

The other copy of the letter and the postscript herein signed by Wm Pitt and Ralph Mallett in place of H Watts

<i>Value received of</i>	<i>C Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ Str</i>
1 John Grant acct 84th Regiment	85,714-4-6	Col Eyre Coote and Rich Cox	10,000- 0-0
1 Major John Carmac	12,000- 0-0	Geo Clive	1,400- 0-0
1 Robt Gregory acct Wm Brightwell Sumner	12,000- 0-0	Wm Brightwell Sumner	1,400- 0-0
1 Do acct Culling and Smith	12,000- 0-0	Culling Smith	1,400- 0-0
1 Ditto	5,400- 0-0	Edward Holden Crutten- den	430- 0-0
1 John Burdett	32,954-10-6	Thos & Chas Burdett	3,844-14-2
17 Setts Curr't Rs	2,41,540- 5-9	£ Str	28,179-14-2

[16] The total amount of bills drawn on your honors by the ships of this season is current rupees fifteen lacks *vizt*,

By the <i>Osterley</i>	67 setts	5,41,261-13-6
By the <i>Boscawen</i>	102 setts	7,17,197-12-9
By the <i>Pigot</i>	17 setts	2,41,540- 5-9
Setts 186		Curr't Rupees 15,00,000- 0-0

We are with the greatest respect  
Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful obedient humble servants,  
Henry Van Sittart / Warren Hastings / H  
Watts / Sam Middleton / Ralph Leycester /  
John Burdett

Fort William,  
the 19th March 1764

## LETTER DATED 19 MARCH 1764

*Shujaud-Daulah's preparations to invade Bengal—necessity of an adequate European force in Bengal for safety*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Honorable Sirs,

I In the postscript of our address by the *Boscawen* on military and country affairs, we acquainted you of an extraordinary mutiny in our army which ended in the desertion of about one hundred and fifty Frenchmen

2. These deserters went over to the army of Shuja Dowla who has entered them in his service and we find that Cossim Aly Cawn has as we expected made use of this disorder in our army as an argument to persuade Shuja Dowla to espouse his interest and invade Bengal. By our last advices the King Shuja Dowla and Cossim Aly Cawn were at Eliabad and it is affirmed that preparations were making to march to Banaris which lies close to the frontier of these provinces

3. Major Carmac is using his endeavours to restore good order in our army which done we shall have little doubt of defeating all the attempts of Shuja Dowla should be continue in the design of marching this way but we are of opinion the prosecution of that design will depend on the intelligence he gets of the state of our forces and when he finds that we are prepared to receive him on the frontier or even to march and meet him in his own country and hears of the reinforcements we are sending to the army by the assistance of the Bombay Detachment and the marines of his Majesty's ships *Medway* and *Argo* he will rather wish to make us his friends than his enemies

4. But [t]his disposition of our neighbours to take every advantage if they find us in an unguarded situation will naturally lead your honors to a reflection upon the necessity of keeping a respectable European force at this Presidency and supplying it with continual recruits as this is evidently the only method of preserving the tranquility of the country and the safety of your possessions

We are with the greatest respect  
Honble Sirs

Your most faithful and obedient  
humble servants

Henry Van Sittart / Warren Hastings /  
H. Watts / Sam Middleton / Ralph  
Leicester / John Burdett

Fort William  
the 19th March 1764

5

## LETTER DATED 25 MARCH 1764

*Mr. Spencer to relieve Mr. Vanstuart as Governor of Bengal—proposed invasion of Bengal by Shujaud Daulah and Qasim Ali Khan*

**TO** the Honble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Honorable Sir

[1] Although I have returned my thanks in the General Letter for the great favor done me by your last orders to this Presidency by the ship *Pitt* yet I think it my duty here again to express my grateful sentiments not only for the indulgence granted me in the commission upon the revenues but

likewise for the honorable manner in which you have been pleased to confer that indulgence and the favourable light in which you have regarded my endeavours for the Company's service

[2] The appointment of Mr Spencer<sup>1</sup> having relieved me from the difficulty I was under with respect to a successor to this Government, I flatter myself you will approve of my leaving it as soon as I have given that gentleman all the lights and information in my power I expect to see him the beginning of May, and shall resign the Government to him (unless some very extraordinary emergency should intervene) in the month of July, when I shall endeavor to get out of the River in order to avoid the sickly season, which the physicians are of opinion, I could by no means go through

[3] My first care after my arrival in England will be to pay my respects to you and to present you with a memorial<sup>2</sup> of all the transactions since I have had the charge of your affairs at this Presidency, in which the rise of the late unhappy troubles is traced through all its channels, and I hope plainly proved to be owing to no fault of mine

[4] The last advices I have received from Major Carmac are dated the 15th instant, the same reports still continue of Shuja Dowla's intentions to take part with Cossim Aly Cawn and invade these provinces but I am far from thinking these reports to have any certain foundation, neither have I the least doubt of the success of our arms if such an attempt should be made, as the cause of the late mutinous disorder in our troops is in great measure removed

I am with great respect  
Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your most faithful and obedient  
humble servant,  
Henry Van Sittart

Fort William,  
25th March 1764

## LETTER DATED 27 SEPTEMBER 1764

### *Shipping news—investment in saltpetre*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 We take this opportunity of the Madrass October ship to forward you a duplicate of our last address dated the 19th of March and to notify a few general advices previous to the dispatch of our first ship from hence

2 We have had the honour to receive your commands of the 30th December 1763, 8th, 9th and 22nd February 1764 and we can inform you in general

that the orders which they contained have been duly complied with for particulars we beg to be referred to the usual advices by our forementioned first ship.

3 The four ships destined this season for Coast and Bay arrived at Madrass the 1st 4th and 7th July and 23rd August and the first three viz. the *Caernarvon* *Devonshire* and *Vansittart* have since imported safe in this River. The *Duke of Albany* they detain at Madrass to be dispatched home in the ensuing month. We have also the pleasure to notice the safe arrival of all the ships destined for China and their being again dispatched on their passages thither the particulars whereof as well as of the consignments the gentlemen at Fort St. George have been able to make by them will no doubt be advised to your honors in the letters from that Presidency.

4 We informed you in our last letter that in consequence of your indulgence to Capt. Howe, we had prolonged the agreement with the freighters of the *Hinchelsea* for another year but we are now concerned to acquaint your honors that the day after the date of our said letters the ship was totally lost in her passage out of the River. Capt. Howe on the 24th of March delivered us in a report of this unfortunate accident and it appearing upon an enquiry made that the misconduct of the pilot was in a great measure the cause thereof we ordered him to be dismissed from the Company's service. Capt. Howe took his passage to England on the *Pigot* Capt. Richardson.

5 The *Earl of Holland* in her passage outward bound having touched at the island of Mauritius found there the *Middlesex* Capt. Fletcher from this place and she also learned that the *Pigot* Capt. Richardson had put in at the Islands the 8th of June the length of her passage from hence having rendered it necessary that she should touch there to recruit her store of water.

6 We have also received advice by a French vessel to the Coast that the *Boscawen* in her passage homeward bound sprung a leak about 10 degrees to the eastward of the Cape which obliged her on the 25th of May to bear away for the island of Mauritius where she arrived the 26th of June that the Captain is endeavouring to repair the damage and that he hopes to be able to proceed again on his voyage about the middle of October. Major Sherlock with the detachment of the 8th Regiment are to be accommodated till that time with quarters on the island of Bourbon and the Major has desired that you will make mention of his situation to the ministry as he has not had time to address either the Secretary of State or the Secretary of War.

7 We acquainted your honors in our last letter of the consignment sent to China by the ship *British Ann* and of the reasons which put it out of our power to afford them any further supplies this season but as we are always attentive to the importance of this branch of the Company's trade and now learn by your advices before us that you have not been able to send out any money from Europe we have resolved at all events to set apart for the service thereof the sum of ten licks

of rupees out of the collections of our revenues and the moneys we expect to receive from the Nabob in the latter end of the year

8 This supply we have determined to dispatch on a ship or ships to proceed by the Pitt's Tract, so as we judge it may arrive at Canton in the month of February and as an early intelligence giving the  
 Cons 6 Augt super cargoes the assurance of such assistance might serve to support the Company's credit We dispatched the *Plassey* schooner the beginning of last month to Malacca, with letters to their address directing the commander to forward the same by any of the outward bound ships he might find there or in failure thereof to carry them himself to Canton

9 Notwithstanding the troubles in Bahar, we have the pleasure to acquaint you that our investment of saltpetre will fall very little deficient As  
 Cons 25th June therefore with the remains of last year and what we receive from Poornca, we shall have no hand a large stock of that article, we have determined to supply Fort St George with ten thousand and Bombay with thirty thousand maunds, and we have begun to freight the supply for Bombay round on country ships that it may arrive with them early in the season

10 We have also granted that Presidency permission to draw on us for five lacks of rupees which we hope may prove of good assist-  
 do ance to them in stocking their ship or ships for China

11 We reckon that there will be fourteen ships this year to be provided for from this and the other side of India *vizt*, eight at Bombay, including the Bombay and China ship and the *Middlesex* and *Lord Mansfield* of last year, and six at Coast and Bay, including the *Bute* and *Admiral Pocock* also ships of last year

12 In a deposition for those we calculate that the above mentioned quantity of saltpetre which we have engaged to send to Bombay and the produce  
 Cons 3d Sept of their own investments will enable the gentlemen to return five ships from thence directly to Europe, and we hope from the latitude which ourselves and Madrass Presidency have given them to draw, that they will have it in their power to send two to China according to your recommendations, so that we judge, only one ship on that side of India will remain unprovided for which we conclude they will send round to us Two of the Coast and Bay ships will be furnished with cargoes from Madrass, three at least we shall be able to dispatch home from hence and one or two will be wanted to carry the money by the Pitt's passage to China

13 Upon this plan therefore, there is full provision made for all the ships on hand and we gave as early advice thereof as possible to Bombay and Madrass that they may either concur with us in fulfilling the same or inform us in due time if circumstances should oblige them to make any material alteration

14 The investment at the several subordinates will be complied with so far, as their advances will go and we hope to be able to dispatch our first ship to you (which we design shall be the *Bute*) about the end of November



15 Mr Spencer arrived here from Bombay in the month of May last and took his standing on this establishment agreeably to your appointment, as has also Mr Playdell who arrived lately in the *Vansittart*

Cons 24th May  
20th Sept

Fort William  
the 21th September 1764  
[Original *via* Madras  
Duplicate per *Devonshire*  
Triplicate per *Caernarvon*]

We are with the greatest respect

Hon'ble Sirs

Your most obedient and faithful

h'ble servants,

H. V. / J. S. / C. S. P. / W. H. /

H. W. / S. M. / R. L. / J. B.

7

LETTER DATED 27 SEPTEMBER 1764

*Shujaud Daulah's march towards Bengal in league with Qasim Ali Khan—Major Carnac's withdrawal due to scarcity of provisions—skirmishes between Shujaud Daulah's and English army—retreat of Shujaud Daulah towards Buxar—differences between Maj Carnac and the Board re decisive action against the enemy—preparations by Major Munro against Shujaud Daulah—mutiny among the sepoys and necessity of maintaining sufficient English troops for security of Company's possessions—army strengthened by a body of cavalry—agreement with Mir Jesar re payment of Rs 5 lakhs a month for extra ordinary military expenses—restrictions on private trade*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs

1. Our last address dated the 19th of March was transmitted by the *Pigot* since which we have had no opportunity of informing you of the occurrences here but we now dispatch this to Madras with a duplicate of the foresaid address to be forwarded by their October ship and shall confine ourselves to a summary of the most interesting events reserving particulars to be advised by our first ship from hence

2. In our foresaid address of the 19th of March we mentioned the reports of Shuja Daulah's intentions to invade these provinces and that he was advanced with Conum Ali Cawn as far as Ellahabad contrary to our expectations they proceeded from thence without loss of time to Benares and as soon as they could prepare bridges for the passage of their troops they crossed the Ganges and marched to the Carumnassa with a very numerous army both of horse and foot but their principal strength consisted in the number and goodness of the cavalry

3 Major Carnac had taken the command of our army at Doudnagur on the banks of the Soane and marched it back to Buxar, where  
 3d Apl he took post with an intention to meet the enemy and bring them to action whenever he should have certain intelligence of their rout. But in this situation he soon experienced a want of provisions arising from the difficulty of transporting it to so great a distance and fearing least that distress should be increased by the motions of the enemies cavalry, having no sufficient body either in our service or the Nabob's to oppose them and escort our convoys he took the resolution of retiring with the army nearer to the city of Patna. Here he was join'd by the Bombay  
 16 Apl Detachment, and having collected a small supply of provisions, advanced again towards the enemy, who had by this time crossed the Carumnassa and come to the banks of the Soane, and begun to make invasions with their cavalry between our army and the city. These ravages soon renewed the complaints in our army of a scarcity of provisions, and  
 7 May Major Carnac found himself again obliged to retire to Patna and thinking it most advisable there to wait the approach of the enemy, made choice of an advantageous post which was not only in itself well calculated for defence, but also effectually secured the city.

4 The army of the enemy encouraged we suppose by this necessity to which our troops were driven of retiring, advanced with  
 4 May great expedition from the Soane, and on the 3rd of May, which was within four or five days after Major Carnac had taken possession of his post, their whole force, attacked our army. Different bodies continued the attack from nine in the morning till near sun sett, but finding themselves repulsed in every quarter, they drew off to their camp which was about six miles distant. Major Carnac thought it more advisable to remain in his post than to pursue the enemy who two days after advanced again, and passing a body of their troops to the eastward towards Futwa, effectually surrounded both our army and the city.

5 In this situation both armies remained without any thing material occurring from the 6th to the 23rd of May, when Shuja Dowla collected his  
 7 June troops together and marched back across the Soane into the Budgapore country and cantoned at Buxar.

6 We have never been acquainted with any certainty of the reasons for this conduct in Shuja Dowla, and we therefore can only give you our opinion upon conjecture that he retreated in order to secure the communication with his own dominions during the rains, which allways swell the river Soane to so great a degree as to render it impassible.

7 Forming an opinion upon the experience of the former successes of the English arms in every part of India by carrying on war always offensively, and making vigorous attacks upon the numerous but  
 9 May irregular armies of the country powers, we constantly recommended to Major Carnac to endeavor to bring Shuja Dowla to an action, and this we thought the more necessary in hopes thereby to put a speedy end to the war, and reduce the very heavy increase of expences which must have attended the continuance of it. Major Carnac at the same  
 5 July time that he joined with us in that opinion, declared that he found it impracticable or unadvisable to execute it, assigning several reasons

which however we must add were not satisfactory to us, but we refer you for a further detail of our sentiments on this subject and Major Carnac's reasons to our Consultations and books of letters.

8. We gave constant advice of the situation of your affairs to the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay and in consequence received from them such reinforcement of Europeans as they had it in their power to send. A detachment of the 89th Regiment arrived from Bombay under Major Munro who in virtue of his rank in His Majesty's service became Commander in Chief of the army in Bengal and finding that Shuja Dowla still remained at Buxar we requested him to proceed to Patna with the troops he had himself brought and those which had arrived about the same time from Madras.

9. Major Munro is now making all necessary preparations for taking the field against the enemy for although overtures have at different times been made towards a negotiation we cannot place any dependance on the sincerity of their proposals while they remain in arms in the Nabob's territories neither in such circumstances can we treat of peace without running the risk of encouraging Shuja Dowla in his hostile intentions by giving him too high an opinion of his own strength. We continue therefore to insist on his retiring out of the limits of these provinces and delivering up Sombre who was the executioner of the massacre at Patna<sup>1</sup> hoping that by forcing him to a compliance with these terms we shall give such a proof of the superiority of our arms as to deter not only him but all the other chiefs of Hindostan from any attempt to invade this country.

10. If no treaty is concluded which at present we think there will not Major Munro proposes to take the field as soon as the season will permit and it is reported that Shuja Dowla is in the same intention the Major is resolved to proceed on the plan of acting offensively and to bring Shuja Dowla to an action as soon as possible.

11. We have received the troops intended for us by the four first ships of this season amounting to about three hundred men of which one half are now under orders to march to Patna and the remainder are detained here to form a detachment for the protection of the Burdwan country if necessary.

12. All the Frenchmen which remained in the army at Patna after the mutiny have been draughted and brought down to Calcutta and we have not since had any disturbance among the European troops but the seapoys too sensible of their own strength from the number we are now obliged to keep up have mutinied two or three times and proceed to very extraordinary lengths. The last insurrection however which happened was quelled by Major Munro with so much spirit and such proper examples made of the ringleaders as we flatter ourselves will effectually restore good order in that corps.

13. The great danger to which the Company's interest here have been exposed by these frequent mutinies among the seapoys lead us again to represent to you the indispensable necessity of keeping up such a body of European troops at this settlement as may of themselves be a sufficient security to you

possessions, and always overrule the country forces which the great extent of our connections now obliges us to keep up, although we can have but little dependance on their fidelity and attachment. The establishment of 2600 Europeans mentioned in your letter of the 30th December 1762 if always kept compleat of effective men, we think might answer this purpose. At present we want about sixteen hundred men to fill up this establishment, and as you are acquainted with the number embarked on the ships not yet arrived, we hope you will take the earliest opportunity to compleat the whole and allow at least five hundred men annually to recruit and keep it so.

14 We must also recommend to your attention the continuing to send out every year a number of cadets, and that all possible care be taken to chuse such young men as may by having been bred at Woolwich, or otherwise, be best qualified to make officers.

15 As you will perceive by the detail of your military concerns the great number of men in your service who are to be furnished with arms, you must be sensible how inadequate the supply which you have sent this year are [*sic*] for that purpose, and we hope you will not fail to comply with our indent of last season for 6000 stand with bayonets and flints of at least 200,000.

16 The Nabob was with our army at Patna the whole campaign but his troops as we have before observed were of little service against the enemy, neither can they at any time be depended on, for which reason we have been under the necessity of encreasing the number of our seapoys to a very great degree. We have now eighteen battalions inaking with officers near thirteen thousand men.

17 We have also found it absolutely necessary from the experience of the last campaign to keep in our service a body of horse sufficient to secure our army against the distresses to which they must otherwise  
 7 Augt be exposed by the cavalry of the enemy. One or two troops  
 4 Sept of European cavalry will by no means answer this purpose, as we acquainted you in our advices of last season. But it is judged that two or three thousand good country horse may be so disposed under the conduct of European officers as effectually to cover our army from being alarmed, and harrassed, although the number of the enemy may exceed them tenfold, which is at present the case with Shuja Dowla. Therefore as the Nabob has no one in his pay that can be depended on for this service, we have come to the resolution of raising two thousand of the best country horse at Patna, and ordering the officers lately belonging to the European cavalry to do duty with them.

18 But as by these additional forces we have taken upon us in a manner the entire defence of these provinces, and relieved the Nabob from the greatest part of his military charges, it is just that he should provide for this encrease of expence by further assignments out of the revenues of the country.

19 It was of great consequence to settle this point with the Nabob as soon as possible, the regulation and restriction of the private trade conformably to the intent of your commands of the 8th of February was another point necessary to be adjusted with the Nabob, whose complaints on that subject have been very frequent and a third point was a provision for the reimbursement of the losses of the merchants in the late war.

20 Having prevailed on the Nabob to come down to Calcutta to regulate those affairs he set out from Patna the latter end of July and arrived here the second of this month. After many conferences it was at last agreed that he should pay five laaks of rupees a month for the support of our extraordinary military expences so long as it shall be necessary for the security of the country to keep up such a number of forces. Of these two laaks are to be paid at Patna and three at Cossimbuzar the payments to commence from the 1st of August last as it was in the course of that month that Major Munro began to take into the service the beforementioned body of horse.

21 We have also regulated the payment of the restitution to the merchants and are now employed in putting the private trade under such restrictions as we flatter ourselves will prevent any further complaints from the country government, and fulfill the purpose of your commander[sic] on this subject.

22 Upon the whole we hope to transmit to your honor by the first ship from hence a well regulated system for conducting all those matters which concern your connection with the country government such a one as may give a future prospect of lasting tranquillity to these provinces.

We are with the greatest respect

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

Your most obedient faithfull  
humble servants,

Henry Van Sittart / J. Spencer / C. S.  
Playdell / Warren Hastings / Saml.  
Middleton / Ralph Leycester / John  
Burdett.

Fort William  
the 27th September 1764  
[Per Devonshire]

8

LETTER DATED 6 NOVEMBER 1764

*Court informed of victory over the forces of Shujaud Daulah at Buxar*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

I Although we have your own ship the *Devonshire* at present under dispatch and think she may possibly arrive with you as soon as this conveyance of a Dutch ship dispatched by the Governor and Council of Houghley yet we do not chuse to omit any probable opportunity of giving you the earliest intelligence of a signal victory gained by your army over the forces of Shuja Dowla at Buxar<sup>1</sup> on the 22d of October. The particulars we received in a

letter from Major Munro dated the 25th, and for your honors further information, we transmit you enclosed a copy of the said letter, and the papers which accompanied it

2 Major Munro's dispatches to the Government shall be sent with our further advices by the *Devonshire*

In the mean time we beg leave to congratulate your honors on this important event, which we have great reason to expect, will be the means of speedily restoring tranquillity to these provinces

We are with the greatest respect

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most obedient and faithfull  
humble servants,

Henry Van Sittart / J Spencer / C S  
Playdell / Warren Hastings / John John-  
stone / Saml Middleton / R Leycester /  
John Burdett

Fort William,  
the 6th November 1764  
[Per *Devonshire*]

9

LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1764

*Details of the war with Shujaud-Daulah and Qasim Ali Khan—overtures for peace by Shah Alam and Shujaud-Daulah turned down by the English—surrender of Rohtasgarh—Major Munro's offensive action against the enemy praised—battle of Buxar, a decisive victory—surrender of Mir Qasim and cession of territory up to Benares demanded—complaints of Mir Jafar on the subject of inland trade—payment by Mir Jafar of extraordinary military expenses—Major Munro recommended in high terms—reflections on Major Carnac's military conduct*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 By the general advices transmitted to you by the way of Madrass, under date the 27th September last, you were informed of the invasion of these provinces by Shuja Dowla, of the repulse he met with on the 3rd of May, in an attack upon our army then intrenched near the walls of the city of Patna, and of his retiring towards the end of that month back, over the Soane, and taking up his quarters at Buxar. You were informed likewise, of our resolution to attack him there, if he did not retire before the breaking up of the rains and comply with our other demands

2 The King Shah Aulum accompanied Shujah Dowla in this expedition,

## LETTER TO COURT

professing at the same time an intire disapprobation of the measure and when the Nabob came down to Calcutta Shitabroy who was formerly employed in negotiations between us and the King (then the Shahzada) came along with him and brought letters from the King and Shujah Dowla expressing a great desire to enter into a friendly negotiation with us and proposing that we should send one or more gentlemen to the court for that purpose and direct the commanding officer of our army to refrain from hostilities. The Nabob and Shitabroy very much pressed our compliance with this overture but as we apprehended that such a condescension on our part while Shujah Dowla remained in arms on this side the Carumnassa instead of procuring us the satisfaction we had a right to expect, would seem rather to feed his pride and encourage him to prolong the war we therefore gave him for answer in plain and friendly terms that while he continued with his army within the limits of the Bengal provinces, and gave protection to the murderers' of our friends we could put no trust in any of his professions, nor think of sending gentlemen to treat with him. We determined not to suffer ourselves to be amused by his proposal but to pursue with firmness the advantage we hoped our army might gain by taking the field early and accordingly when we acquainted Major Munro with the substance of Shujah Dowla's letters and our answer we directed him not to pay the least regard to this negotiation but to continue his preparations with the same diligence as before and open the campaign as soon as he conveniently could and in case of Shujah Dowla's advancing towards Patna we gave it as our opinion that he would have an advantageous opportunity of attacking him while he was attempting to cross the Soane but if on the other hand Shujah Dowla kept his station at Buxar we advised that he should march and attack him there and prosecute the war against him with the utmost vigour until he was brought to submit to the reasonable terms we demanded.

3 While these preparations were making Cassim Aly Cawn's people who were left in charge of the fort of Rotas offered to surrender it to us upon certain conditions which being agreed to Major Munro sent a detachment who were accordingly put in possession of the fort and we keep a small garrison there.

4 Our army was cantoned during the rains partly at Patna partly at Monceer on the banks of the Soane and partly at Chupperah on the other side of the Canges. Major Munro with the troops from Patna joined those at Monceer the 9th of October and Major Champion with the troops from Chupperah was ordered to cross the Canges above the Soane and take post on the banks of that river so as to secure the passage of the rest of the army which otherwise might have been opposed by the enemy with great advantage as the men artillery and baggage were obliged to cross in boats the Soane being not yet fordable. The orders were executed with such briskness and punctuality that the enemy had not time to put the least opposition and the passage was effected without difficulty. But before we put on the further march of the army and speak of the success which attended it we must stop to do justice to Major Munro's merit in surmounting the difficulties he had to encounter before he began his march.



A View of Fort Rohidas





5 His utmost care and vigilance was employed in reforming all the disorders of the army, and particularly in conquering that mutinous spirit, which had so long prevailed, and of which the last instance was  
 Cons 24 Sept in a battalion of sepoys, who marched off with their arms, demanding an encrease of pay and prize money Major Munro brought them all back prisoners, executed 27 according to the sentence of a court martial, and broke the battalion with infamy, by which example and a constant and regular course of discipline, he brought both the soldiers and sepoys under due command His next attention was to secure the army from a want of provisions after taking the field, for which purpose he, with the assistance of Mr Billers, the Chief of Patna, embarked a sufficient quantity for two months service in boats, which accompanied the army, and secured himself by this precaution, against all the difficulties to which he might otherwise have been exposed by the superiority of the enemy's cavalry

6 Thus prepared, he crossed the Soane in the manner before mentioned, and marched towards the enemy who gave him little opposition in the way, but waited with their whole force and a numerous artillery  
 Cons 1st Novr at Buxar The armies came to a general engagement on the 23rd of October, and our troops gained the most compleat victory possible The enemy fled across the Carumnassa with the utmost precipitation leaving their whole camp standing, and about 150 pieces of cannon  
 Cons 6 Novr For a more particular account of the action we beg leave to refer you to Major Munro's letter of the 25th of which we have already transmitted a copy by a Dutch ship with a short address dated the 6th instant

7 This victory has proved so compleat and decisive, that our troops meet with no further opposition Major Munro, in consequence of our directions that he should prosecute the war against Shuja Dowla in the most effectual manner to force him to a compliance with our terms, is on his march through Gauzepoor, a part of Shuja Dowla's dominions towards Benaras, and we cannot too much commend his care in keeping the troops in order and securing the inhabitants of the country through which he passes, from the ruin and devastation which is commonly seen on such occasions Shuja Dowla himself has fled to Iliabad The King with Beny Bahadre<sup>2</sup> (Shuja Dowla's principal officer) are at Benaras, from whence they have sent letters to the President and to Major Munro offering their alliance and desiring to know what are our terms<sup>3</sup> Having fully considered this subject in Consultation the 6th of November, we resolved in the first place to insist on the performance of the conditions we have demanded from the beginning *vizt*, the delivery of Meer Cossim, Sumro and our deserters, and in consideration of the risque and expences of the war as well as to assert our superiority, we determine to keep possession of the country as far as Benaras and to apply the revenues to your benefit, if Shujah Dowla will comply with these terms we shall be ready to enter into an agreement with him so far as that he shall not assist our enemies nor we his, if he still holds out we shall favour the designs of his competitors and do our utmost to drive him out of his dominions, and give the possession of them to the King or some other who shall be named by him

8 Our view in requiring this cession of territory from Shujah Dowla is more to give a publick testimony to all the powers of India of the success of our arms in the unjust war he commenced against us, than the increase of revenue

it may bring. We do not wish to extend our connections beyond what may appear necessary for securing the future tranquillity of these provinces which is the first object of our consideration and if we enter into any further engagements they shall be such as tend to that point.

9 If we were to be guided by the law of retaliation we might with great justice refuse to hearken to any terms from Shuja Dowla. He entered the province with so high an opinion of his own strength that he scrupled not to make the most extravagant demands. In his first letter which is entered upon our Consultation of the 26th April he requires us in the most haughty terms to withdraw all our forces from the country and send them back to Europe. Afterwards while he lay encamped near Patna he demanded the surrender of the three provinces which he said the King had granted to his son and next when he found he was not likely to meet with the success he had first flattered himself with the hopes of he contented himself with insisting upon the cession of the province of Bahar. We answered to all these demands that under the name of protector of the King's country he was himself the greatest destroyer that we would defend our own rights and those of the Nabob to whom we are allied and that we trusted in the event we should free the King from the restraint in which he had kept him for some years for his own purposes and concluded with warning him that we should carry the war out of this country into his.

10 He has seen to his misfortune our declarations verified and with this experience if he submits to the terms we have demanded and a peace is concluded with him we think it will be his care in future to live in friendship with us.

11 In our Consultation of the 17th October you will see the particulars of the Nabob's complaints on the subject of the inland trade and the restrictions we had resolved on in consequence of those complaints.

Cons. 17 October and your orders of the 8th February 1764. It is true the Nabob in his last treaty of the 10th July 1763 expressly consented that all that trade should be free but as we have found by repeated experience that some branches of it are productive of continual disputes with the officers of the Government and the country people we have endeavoured to distinguish those articles and resolved to prohibit all the Company's servants and others living under your protection from any further dealings in them at the same time we thought it reasonable to preserve such other parts of the privilege granted us by the said treaty as had not been found productive of such disputes and complaints. The orders we were about to give upon this

Cons. 1st Nov subject have however been suspended upon the receipt of your commands of the 9th May 1764 where you inform us that you had sent by the *Kent* your more particular opinion and instructions concerning the affairs of the country government. Before the Nabob's coming down we had resolved for the reasons mentioned in Consultation 3rd May and 21st July that no Europeans should be permitted to trade up the country as agents and that all who are at present employed in that way should return to Calcutta by the 1st December which regulation has been published and ordered to put in execution in consequence to the subordinate fact that

12 In your letter of the 8th February 1764 you mention the names of several free merchants agents in the country who appear to have been forward

in fomenting disputes with the officers of the country government In justice to the character of Mr John Robinson, one of the gentlemen therein spoke of, we must acquaint your honors that we never received any complaints against nor had cause in any respect to be displeased with his conduct in carrying on his business The only occasions in which his name has appeared on our proceedings have been such where he has found it necessary to complain to his constituents of obstructions given to their business by the officers of the Government

13 The Nabob is yet here, and we have recommended him to remain untill the arrival of Lord Clive, that he may be on the spot to confer upon any alterations that may become necessary in our intended plan for limiting the private trade or any fresh points of business that may occur, in consequence of your expected instructions by the *Kent* He has given necessary orders to his officers at Patna and Moorshedabad for the discharge of the five lacks per month for our extraordinary military expences as more particularly mentioned in our address of the 27th September last paragraphs 16 to 20 The Chiefs of Patna and Cossimbuzar factories have it in charge to receive this money from the Nabob's officers and we have been advised that the payments for August and September have been fully discharged at both places For a more distinct view of the present state of the expences of our army in the field, we beg leave to refer you to the Commissary's General Books which are now sent, ending April 1763 and shall be sent by the other ships brought up to April 1764, from the time of the army taking the field last year under Major Adams up to the month of August when the monthly payment of five lacks commences as beforementioned The Nabob paid to the army and our different factories about thirty five lacks of *sicca* rupees As yet the particular statement of the Company's expences and losses in that war is not compleated but we judge, it will exceed the sum paid by the Nabob, although the amount paid exceeds by five lacks the sum stipulated by the treaty

14 Since our last address Major Carnac delivered in a letter in answer  
 Cons 8 Octr to ours of the 5th of July which is entered on Consultation  
 the 8th of October and as you will find the whole correspondence at length in our Consultations and books of letters, we beg leave to refer you entirely thereto

15 Mr Tinker has given us notice in his letter dated the 6th instant of his intention to return to England with the squadron agreeably to His Majesty's orders, and he will accordingly leave this River about the 20th of next month It is but just we should again assure your honors that Mr Tinker has afforded every assistance in his power for promoting the success of your affairs with the greatest readiness

16 The detail we have given of Major Munro's conduct in the beginning of this letter, speaks his merit as an officer in the strongest terms possible, but still we cannot conclude without repeating the high sense we entertain of his services and requesting that you will in justice thereto take a proper opportunity of recommending him to His Majesty's favour

17 Major Carnac having further sent to the Board this day a letter addressed to him from the principal officers of the army dated the 26th of July, by which it appears that they approve of his conduct during his last command

of the army we therefore think the Major has justified himself as to his military conduct and is only blameable for not having informed the Board fully at the time of his own and the officers real opinion of the state of the army For the particular sentiments of the different members of the Board we beg leave to refer you to the Consultation of this date.

We are with the greatest respect

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

Your most faithful and obedient

humble servants

Fort William  
the 26th November 1764  
[Per Medway]

J Spencer / C. S. Playdell / Ralph  
Leicester / John Burdett

10

## LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1764

*Return of Assistant to England*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs,

1 As you have been regularly informed of all the occurrences in the affairs of this Presidency since you did me the honour to appoint me to the Government nothing remains for me to say at quitting it but again to express my thanks for your repeated favours. I am extremely happy in leaving the country at a time when the signal success of our arms gives a prospect of so much security and tranquillity

2 The particular instructions<sup>1</sup> which you were pleased to address to me singly under date the 9th of February 1764 shall be returned into your hands upon my arrival in London You will see by your books of Consultations and country letters that I have never made the least use of the authority therein confided to me and that immediately on the receipt thereof I wrote to the Nakh to assure him I had your orders to do every thing in my power for the establishment and support of his government And my conduct towards him in all the intercourse we have had together has been conformable to this assurance

I most heartily wish success to all your affairs and am with the utmost respect

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

Your faithful and obedient servant

Henry Van Sittart.

Fort William  
26th November 1764

## LETTER DATED 26 NOVEMBER 1764

*Shipping news—question of Company's investment vis-a-vis Dutch investment—service matters—payment of Lord Clive's claims—establishment of constant communication with Madras by means of qasids—shares of European and other sufferers in the payments made by Mir Jafar—committee for the recovery of the losses sustained by merchants during the war with Mir Qasim—Vansittart resigns—list of bills of exchange*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 We have already advised you of the arrival of your ships, *Caernarvon*, *Devonshire*, *Vansittart* and *Albany*, and acknowledged receipt of your commands  
 29 Octr of the 30th December 1763, 8th, 9th and 22nd of February 1764 The *Success* Capt Gardiner imported the 26th of October and brought us your further commands of the 10th April and 9th May

2 We now proceed to reply to such parts of these several letters as require an answer and to give your honours a general account of affairs at this Presidency under the usual established heads, and

*First of shipping*

3 The *Albany* having been detained at Fort St George to be immediately returned to England, it remained with us to fix upon the destination of the  
 6 Octr other three ships We have accordingly stationed the *Caernarvon* to carry the supply of saltpetre for Fort St George, and be from thence dispatched home in the month of February, and the *Devonshire* and *Vansittart* to return directly from hence

4 We have the *Devonshire* at present under dispatch and we hope we shall be able to give the *Vansittart* her loading about the beginning of January For our third ship, we depend on the arrival of the *Bute* from Batavia

5 We received a letter from Capt Maitland dated at Batavia the 2nd August advising of his transactions at that place, and informing us at same  
 8 October time that the arrival there of the troops from Manilla had occasioned an application being made to him to assist in transporting them to Madrass, as His Majesty's ship *Falmouth* intended to repair at Batavia and proceed from thence to Europe With this application he intended to comply to which, we attribute his not yet appearing, supposing him to have gone to Madrass with those troops

6 We are advised from Fort St George of the arrival of the *Revenge*, one of the ships employed in withdrawing the garrison from Manilla The

*Admiral Pocock* sailed from Manilla at the same time but was not advised at Batavia when the *Revenge* left it. We learn from private Sect. Dep. 15 Octr advices that she had been obliged to put into Borneo and that it was uncertain whether she might continue her passage to Batavia or be under the necessity of bearing away for China.

7 By letters from Bombay of the 30th of September we find that the Lord Mansfield had not then arrived and of course we cannot help being uneasy for her safety as she left this River 19 Novr about the end of March

8 But supposing that no misfortune happens to the *Lord Mansfield* we conclude that her being so late will prevent our receiving the ship we expected from Bombay so that from the uncertainty also with respect to the *Admiral Pocock* we shall be deprived of two of the six ships we reckoned upon for Coast and Bay

9 From the consideration therefore of this circumstance together with the advantage it will be to the super cargoes to receive the supply of money intended for China without the burden of an additional 22d Octr tonnage we determined to apply to Mr Tinker to permit 25 Octr the *Argo* frigate to proceed to China with the treasure on the usual terms of freight. With this request Mr Tinker has complied and we think upon the whole it will be much more for the Company's interest as besides the advantage above mentioned the ship is extremely handy to make the passage speedily by the intended tract.

10 We observe your directions with respect to the four ships taken up to bring out troops and we shall settle accordingly with the 5th Novr agents for their several owners. The *Success* Captain Gardiner was discharged from the Company's service the 15th of this month.

11 We enquired according to your orders for the journals of the outward bound voyage of the ships *Norfolk* and *Chesterfield*. The former we find was sent home to the owners in England with Capt 1st Octr McConochies other papers and the latter we suppose from the information of Captain Duff has also been transmitted among the papers of Capt Merchant. We shall make it a rule in future to demand the journals of all ships that may be taken up for the run to India.

12 We have given directions to the warehousekeepers to prepare the rectified accounts you require of the *Onslow's* cargo from Europe and of the returning cargoes of the *Drake* and *Hardwicke* and those 21 Sept papers will accordingly be transmitted in this ship's packet.

13 In the Export Warehousekeepers report he has acquainted us with the result of his enquiries regarding the deficiencies in the bales per *Fox* which we beg leave to refer to your honors observation.

14 In consequence of your orders to the President relative to the information of contraband goods shipped on the *Carrington* we gave immediate directions on her arrival for a strict search in the places of the ship pointed out in the information but notwithstanding this search was accordingly made without loss of time 22 Sept and the Deputy Custom Master continued on board during 1 Oct the delivery of the greatest part of the cargo there could be made very

made of any of the articles mentioned or other illicit goods For further particulars, we refer you to the report of the Sub Import Warehouse Keeper and Deputy Custom Master entered after our Consultations of the 10th September and 22nd October

15 The gentlemen of Fort Marlbro' finding it necessary to give some repairs to the *Diligent* snow belonging to their own establishment, dispatched  
 23 Apl her to us under the commander of the *Syren*, and detained that vessell there untill the *Diligent* shall return We have accordingly given the *Diligent* the necessary repairs and she will soon be ready to sail for Fort Marlbro'

16 The *Plassey*, *Greyhound* and *Leopard*, the former belonging to Fort St George and the other two to this establishment, have likewise been lately  
 18 June returned from the West Coast The *Plassey* has at the  
 16 July desire of the gentlemen at Fort St George been disposed  
 1st Novr of at publick sale, and we have also sold off the *Greyhound*  
 20 Augt The *Leopard* we purpose keeping as before, to go on  
 occasional services to the other Presidencies

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

17 Our last general sale of goods from Europe was made the 1st of August, and amounted to CRs 4,54,218 as will more particularly appear by the  
 13 Augt account thereof transmitted in this ship's packet By this account your honors will observe that none of the broad cloth sold to advantage, excepting the *auroran*, and that *perpets* continue entirely out of demand We have therefore formed our indent for woollens according to the run of those sales, and the large account of remains in the warehouse leaving it to your honors to do further therein as you shall think proper

18 In this indent we have desired a supply of five thousand pair of strong shoes for the use of your military This quantity will now be fully wanted according to the establishment which you propose for this Presidency, and as it is an article so highly essential for preserving the health of the men when engaged in service during the rains, we shall depend on your ordering it to be fully complied with Any advance you may think proper, shall be charged upon this article in like manner as upon the hats which we indented for last season and have now repeated

19 On the 8th of October the Import Warehouse Keeper reported to us that there had been landed from a country ship from Madrass five bales  
 25 Octr of ordinary broad cloth of different colours and assortments from what are usually sent out by the Company, and desired our orders thereupon We immediately directed them to be confiscated and sold at publick outcry, and enclosed in the packet is an account of the sales, the amount of which has been brought to the Company's credit

20 We have received by the several ships of this season the consignment of Madeira wine, the condition and quality thereof will appear by



the Warehouse Keepers report which goes a number in the packet but we must further remark to your honors that the quantity is very inadequate to the wants of your servants alone exclusive of the inhabitants of the settlement as will appear by the distribution entered on our Consultation of the 5th of November The number of servants both on your civil and military lists is now so much increased that there will always be wanted for their use only at least three hundred pipes we hope therefore that you will enlarge the export of this article as far as you possibly can.

21 In our indent from the military store house you will find no further demand for heavy cannon the supplies we have received from the other settlements and His Majesty's ships particularly the *Medway* and *York* proving fully sufficient for the use of our fortifications. The account remains from that office will shew you the number now in store exclusive of those from the *Medway* and *York* not yet brought to account as they are not all landed but we find it impossible to distinguish what part of these have been taken during the war as the lists we received with those from the other settlements did not explain how they came into the Company's stores. As this heavy article of the military indent will no longer interfere we hope it will enable you to comply fully with the other articles and we here beg leave to repeat the absolute necessity for your sending the full number of muskets and bayonets.

22 We advised you in our last address of our resolution to set apart ten lacks of rupees for the assistance of the China trade and you are informed in the 9th paragraph that we have requested Mr Tinker to permit the *Argo* frigate to carry the consignments to China having no ship of our own to spare In pursuance of this resolution we have purchased of the owners of the *Mocha* ship and other persons a quantity of bullion to the amount of about six lacks of rupees and we have passed an order to the Mint Master to melt down into ingots of dollar standard such sums as can be spared out of the treasury from our other occasions by those means we expect to be able to compleat the sum intended of ten lack by the 10th of December when we shall immediately dispatch the *Argo* with it to China

23 The Presidency of Fort Marlbro have transmitted to us their usual indent for stores which we have ordered to be prepared by the proper officers A small part of the rice and seventy five chests of opium we purpose to forward by the *Diligent* snow the beginning of next month and the remainder of the indent we shall transport on the *Leopard* snow to Madras to be forwarded from thence on the *Admiral* Hation which we are advised will arrive from Batavia in the month of January

4 We informed you in our last of the supplies of saltpetre intended for Fort St George and Bombay The whole of the Fort St George supply will be taken on the *Guernsey* and that for Bombay we propose to procure as our own demand may amount thirty six or forty thousand pounds and we have already fitted out different vessels of that quantity thirty two thousand

*Thurdly of investments*

25 Notwithstanding the regular collection of our own revenues and the discharge of the monies which the Nabob engaged to pay, the expences of our army has occasioned such large drafts on our treasury that it has not been in our power to supply the sums required to compleat the investment. We judge, however, that the cargoes of our three ships will not fall short of thirty lacks of rupees, to which is to be added the amount of the saltpetre supplied the other settlements.

26 We are concerned to perceive that your honors still entertain an opinion, that the Dutch investment exceeds ours both in quantity and quality. It is an opinion very different from the judgement we are led to form from the experience and informations we get here, for as to the quantity, we are credibly assured that the invoice of one of their ships does not usually exceed four lacks of rupees and we know that for these four years past, they have only dispatched three and usually but two ships to Europe in a season, this also agrees with the informations from our *gomastahs* at the *aurungs*, which assure us that their purchases fall far short of ours. As to the quality, if there is any truth in the repeated remonstrances of the Dutch Directore to the President, our *gomastahs* have the first choice of the goods at every place, and they can only purchase what we refuse in the sorting.

27 Now we are speaking on this subject it may not be improper to explain to you the nature of the Directore's complaints, the manner of conducting our investments is to make advances to the weavers early in the season and take contracts for the delivery of goods to then amount agreeable to muster. The Directore argues that this is an undue advantage and that the weavers have an equal right to sell to their *gomastahs* for ready money in the middle or latter end of the season, but as we have an undoubted title to a preference for the risk and interest of our money, and there is no certainty in providing goods but by this method of advancing, we have always asserted the justness of our proceedings, acquainting them at same time that we give strict orders to our *gomastahs* not to obstruct them in carrying on their business in any manner they think proper. The proceedings of the Committee of *Aurungs*<sup>1</sup> of the 15th and 29th of May treat fully on this subject.

28 We are endeavoring to obtain a certain account of the Dutch exports for one or more seasons. In the mean time from the above circumstances we cannot help concluding that your informations with respect to their investment must be very ill grounded. Upon the whole we beg leave to assure you that your own investment has always been compleated as far as our supplies of money would admit and we have never failed to do our utmost to remedy all the defects in quality that have been pointed out to us in your list of investment, and in every respect to keep up the fabrick of the different assortments.

29 It is probable the Dutch investment may have been enlarged in this and the last season by our inability to supply money for compleating the purchases we ordered, and from the same reason our cloths will appear enhanced in their price, the same number of servants continuing in pay at the *aurungs* although the quantity of pieces falls short.

Cons 1st October

30 We informed you in our General Letter by the *Osterly* that we should not let the Dutch have any share of the saltpetre of that year unless we had more than sufficient for our own occasions. They made no further application on the subject which no doubt was owing to their being sensible they could have no right to expect any indulgence from us after such a dealing on their part. The new Directore and Council revived the application at the end of last year whereupon we resolved to give them the share before agreed on and have accordingly ordered their third to be delivered to their factory at Patna.

31 Agreeably to your orders we have increased Mr Delaports salary to three hundred pounds per annum In the course of this last season he has been employed in making a circuit of the Calcutta *aurungs* and has delivered us in a report of the remarks which occurred to him on the different assortments. The Export Warehouse Keeper has had strict directions to attend to these remarks and we forward a copy of them in this ships packet for your further observations. Mr Delaporte is now about to visit the factories of Maulda and Patna and upon the whole we have reason to be satisfied with his attention and endeavors to improve the investment.

32 We have ordered this year 200 chests of opium to be provided at Patna for the service of the West Coast and one hundred and fifty chests are now on the way down of which we shall immediately dispatch seventy five chests by the *Diligent* as mentioned in the 23rd paragraph.

33 As our investment this season will still be deficient we had resolved to limit the drafts on your honours to the sum of fifteen lacks but finding that we should be difficulted to raise the money for China and at same time that much more money would offer to be remitted home than that sum we have increased it to twenty lacks beyond which we shall not draw this season You will observe by the postscript that we have accordingly granted by this ship bills for fifteen lacks and the remainder shall be drawn by the other dispatches.

#### *Fourthly of fortifications and buildings*

34 Capt Fleming Martin arrived in the *Lausittart* and agreeably to your appointment has taken upon him the charge of the fortifications The chief work which was done in the Fort to the end of last season was completing the barracks and the Calcutta and water gates together with the outworks to the northward as will more particularly appear by the Engineer's letter entered after the Consultation of the 4th June We then reminded him that the facing of the counterwarp of the ditch should always be considered as a principal object untill it was finished and it is now almost completed to the northward of the Fort

35 As Captain Martin transmits to your honours by this ship a plan of the Fort with a full state of all the different works at the time he took charge

we shall refer you for further particulars on this subject to his said letter and plan

36 We had great reason to be satisfied with the conduct and application of Capt Polier during the time he continued to act as Engineer. He has now proceeded to the army with the command of a Company of Pioneers, and we beg leave to recommend him to your honours as an officer deserving your notice from his diligence and capacity as well as being a proper person to succeed again to the same charge in case of a vacancy

37 In consequence of the resolution which we advised you of in the 63rd paragraph of our letter of the 19th December 1763, we had proceeded to collect all the necessary informations with a view of constructing a fort at Chittagong and a plan for the work itself had been transmitted to us by Capt Lieut Burghall, but as in your commands of this season you disapproved of any such work, we immediately forbid [*sic*] the Chief and Council from beginning upon it, and only directed them to send us a plan for a factory to consist of the necessary appartments for the residence of your servants and warehouses for conducting the business, and such a plan we have now before us to determine upon

#### *Fifthly of rents and revenues*

38 On the subject of the revenues, we have nothing new to mention by this opportunity. The settlements of the three provinces of Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, as well as of the Calcutta lands continue on the same footing as last year, and all possible diligence is exerted in making the collections agreeable thereto. As yet the statements of the year ending last April have not been compleated and adjusted by the Committoe of Lands<sup>2</sup>. When they are, such observations as occur shall be noticed to your honors by one of the other ships. And we have given directions that the rents arising from the salt farms shall be stated according to your directions under a distinct head

39 In this ship's packet we transmit you a copy of the report of an assay of four rupees coined in our mint and a like number from the mint at

Cons 1st Novr Moorshedabad, which we ordered to be made in consequence of the Nabobs mentioning to the President that our rupees had fallen below the standard of those coined in his mints, but it appears on the contrary by the Assay Master's report that ours upon the average are better about one per *mille*. It is observable, however, that the process of melting and refining in this country must be very

Cons 12 Novr uncertain as hardly any two rupees are found to be exactly of the same fineness. We understand also that for want of a sufficient knowledge in the process of melting and refining, and some necessary utensils

Cons 15 Novemr for that branch of business, there arises a loss of bullion which does not happen in Europe. We have therefore under consideration the remedying these losses and inconveniencies as far as possible with the assistance of the Assay Master, Mr Campbell

40 The Nabob has paid up the full money agreeable to his treaty of last year, and has since granted further monthly assignments for defraying the encreased military expences, as you will be more particularly informed by our Separate Letters on country affairs

*Sixthly of covenants and military servants and their accounts*

41 In consequence of your commands of the 8th of February 1764 Major Carnac Mr Batson and Mr Johnstone were dismissed from the service but on the receipt of your letters of the 10th April and 9th May Major Carnac and Mr Johnstone were restored to their stations as was also Mr Francis Charlton agreeably to your orders of the 22nd of February

Cons. 16 July  
Cons. 2 Octr  
Cons. 3 Sept

42 Upon the dismissal of Mr Johnstone we appointed Mr Marriott to be Chief at Burdwan, but when Mr Johnstone was re-admitted to the service, we restored him again to that chiefship understanding this to be the sense of your orders and Mr Charlton had been for the same reason appointed second at Dacca. However we should be glad of your sentiments whether it is your intentions that a gentleman thus restored to your service after being dismissed is entitled to all the appointments he held before his dismissal. In favour of this title it is argued that by restoring a servant you mean to restore him to all his former advantages and it may be urged on the other side that another servant who has succeeded to the appointments of the one dismissed and regulated his affairs accordingly is exposed to an unmerited loss and inconveniences by such immediate change.

43 This question may be considered in two lights one where a senior servant has succeeded to the affairs of a junior servant dismissed of which there is an example in the case of Mr Ellis and McGwire where the Board considering the seniority of Mr Ellis continued him Chief of Patna and another where a junior servant has succeeded to the affairs of a senior servant dismissed of which we have an instance in the case of Mr Marriott and Mr Johnstone where Mr Marriott being junior was recalled from the Chief ship of Burdwan We therefore request that you will consider the whole subject and give us such explicit directions as may occasion no doubt here.

44 On receipt of your orders of the 8th of February we signified to Mr Watts the part thereof which related to him and received an answer which is entered on Consultation the 16th July explaining the reasons for his conduct in the point thereon mentioned and these reasons being deemed entirely satisfactory we immediately restored him to his station in the Council

45 Judging it necessary on account of the importance of the collections of Midnapore and its being a frontier province to appoint a member of the Council at that station and finding at same time that it corresponds with your opinion expressed in your letter of the 8th of February we have appointed Mr Watts to that residency in the room of Mr Beaumont who was desirous of returning to Calcutta in order to prepare for his passage to Europe

Cons. 5 Octbr

46 Mr Middleton has succeeded Mr Watts as Resident at the Nabob's Court and Mr Marriott is appointed chief of an establishment intended for collecting the revenues of such part of Shuja Dowlas country as we may become possessed of either by conquest or treaty For the other appointments among the civil servants since our last we refer you to the usual list transmitted in the packet

Dis. Dis.

Cons. 15 Sept



55 To prevent Capt. Pemples being superceded by junior officers on our establishment being promoted to be Major we also gave him a brevet for that rank whilst he should remain in the command of the  
 Cons. 18 June Bombay Detachment serving under this Presidency of which appointment the Governor and Council of Bombay have signified their approbation.

56. The vacancy occasioned in our chaplaincy by the return of Mr Bowen to England was of course filled up by the Revd. Mr Parry  
 Cons. 26 Novemb but the Revd Mr Hurst having also resigned the service to return to Europe this season we must request that you will appoint another chaplain for this Presidency as soon as possible.

57 We take the liberty again to mention Mr Benjamin Lacam who serves in the office of Muster Master at the New Fort as he sets forth to us that a representation of his diligence and good behaviour is the  
 Cons. 19 Novembr only dependence he has for obtaining an appointment upon your list of covenanted servants. We beg leave also to recommend Mr John Pearce who has served for some time as a monthly assistant under the Secretary and has been mentioned by him to us as being extremely diligent and in every respect qualified for an appointment in the service which he is desirous of obtaining

58. We mentioned in our letter of the 19th of March 1764 that agreeably to your orders we had refused payment of Lord Clive's *jaghuer* upon the demand of his attorney Soon after we received a letter  
 Para 7  
 Cons. 25 April from the Nabob insisting that the amount of the *jaghuer*  
 Cons. 7 May should be paid to him if the Company has forbid the  
 Cons. 2 Novembr payment of it to Lord Clive and this claim being deemed unquestionable we accordingly paid to the Nabob the amount then due In conformity to your last orders of the 9th of May we shall continue to make the payments as usual to Lord Clive or his attorneys.

59 We have found it necessary to add one hundred rupees a month to the allowances of your chaplains and head surgeons at the Presidency The great increase of expences especially in the article of house  
 Cons. 1 Novembr rent occasioned by the increased number of inhabitants of all denominations bears particularly hard on the gentlemen in those stations who have no prospect of further advancement and for the most part have families to support

60 We have for some time established a constant correspondence with Madras by Land by the means of stage *cossids* which has been attended with all the advantage we could expect both in regard to the  
 Cons. 14 Febr publick affairs and the conveniences of trade and we have lately stationed an English gentleman resident at Ballasore another at Cuttack and another between that and Vizagapatam to pay those *cossids* and see that they do their duty so that the packets may meet with no delays

61 Mr Burdett represented to the Board that in the month of March last he paid money into the treasury for a sett of Bills on the Company and transmitted the first Bill by the ship *Tier* But having  
 Cons. 15 Novembr either lost or mislaid the other three Bills he requested we would either grant him 5th and 6th Bill or such certificates as might serve

him to recover payment, should the first bill not arrive safe in England. Particulars of the said bills are as follows:

The 15th March 1764, a sett of bills drawn by the Governor and Council at Fort William on the Court of Directors, payable to Messrs. Thomas and Charles Burdett for £St 3,814-14-2 at 365 days sight & value received here of Jno Burdett C Rs. 32,951-10-6

In consequence of the above representation, we referred to our treasury book and found this sum to have been paid in as specified, we therefore are to request that notwithstanding any accident may befall the first bill, you will cause the amount of the sett to be discharged.

### *Seventhly of accounts*

62 The General Books of this Presidency ending April 1760, were forwarded by the *Bombay*. The sett ending April 1761 now goes in the *Devonshire*, and we have the pleasure to observe by the Deputy Accountant's letter that two more sett will be ready to go this season. After Mr Dacres's appointment to Patna, Mr Richard Barwell was ordered to bring up those books, and we think that great merit is due to him for his diligence and attention in bringing this heavy work on to so great forwardness in so short a time.

63 We are surprised equally with you at the demand made by 12 gentlemen, late inhabitants of Calcutta for account of the restitution stipulated by the Nabob Meer Jaffer in his treaty<sup>1</sup> of 1757 to be paid to the European sufferers in the capture of Calcutta the preceeding year. Their demand is entirely erroneous and groundless as we shall plainly evince.

64 First we must premise that we have examined the original treaty and the term is "rupees" and not "*sicca* rupes", but supposing it had been *sicca* rupes the Company were by no means answerable for the performance of [*sic*] and all that can be required of them is to account with the concerned for as much as they received into their treasury, and moreover supposing that *sicca* rupes had been specified in the treaty and that the Company were answerable for the performance of the stipulation, yet the charge of 20 per cent, to bring the *siccas* to Calcutta currency is most unjust, for the regular and established *batta* on *sicca* rupes has always been 16 per cent, nor have they ever been passed at a higher rate, but at on a particular period and that for a very short time.

65 The complainants set forth in their bill that the amount of claims delivered into the commissioners, before the 13th October 1757, amounted to thirty nine lacks, fifty four thousand seven hundred and twenty two rupees (39,54,722), which with the 20 per cent interest allowed thereon, amounted to, forty seven lacks, forty five thousand six hundred and sixty six rupees (47,45,666). Perhaps the amount of claims brought before the commissioners to that day might be the sum they have specified, but the commissioners sat for three years afterwards and passed in the whole claims, amounting, as you will find by the enclosed list extracted from the book of dividends, to the principal



sum of forty three lacks fifty thousand, nine hundred and thirteen rupees,  
twelve annas and three pice 43,50,913-12 3

and that the amount passed for interest at 20 per cent was eight  
lacks fifty four thousand and nine rupees five annas and  
six pice 8,54,009 5-6

and the amount of interest at 6 per cent further passed on  
goods recovered was forty one thousand nine hundred and  
nineteen rupees ten annas and six pice 41,919 10-6

making altogether the sum of fifty two lacks forty six thousand  
eight hundred and forty two rupees twelve annas and  
three pice 52,46,842 12-3

66. We must here remark that the European sufferers proportions, out of the first payments made by the Nabob did not pass at all through the Company's treasury the commissioners received and divided it to the sufferers themselves but finding this created a great deal of confusion they afterwards requested of the Governor and Council that the money might be received in the Company's cash and issued from thence. Notwithstanding this when we came to make up the Nabob's accounts we found it necessary to debit him for the whole sum granted by the treaty including the European sufferer's proportion and to credit him and debt [debit] the treasury for all the sums he paid on account of the treaty as if paid wholly into the treasury such of those sums as had been immediately paid to the commissioners for account of the European sufferers without having really passed through the treasury were adjusted by debiting them to the treasury as if they had been paid from thence and in order to reduce the fifty lacks of rupees to currency we added the usual *batta* of 16 per cent making fifty eight lacks of current rupees (£8,00,000) but as the payments made by the Government here never turn out full *seccas* every party concerned in the sum granted must be charged with the proportion of the loss on *batta*

67 The whole sum paid out of the treasury on account of European sufferers including the transfers before mentioned is fifty two lacks ninety four thousand nine hundred and seventy rupees two annas and eleven pice up to the close of the restitution books the 30th September 1761 52,94,970- 2 11

We are informed although there is no record of it that Roydolub was promised a commission of 5 per cent on the whole sum granted by the treaty except on the fifty lacks given to the army and navy The said commission was really paid him on a consoling part and we not being able to determine whether the rest should be paid him or not kept it in your cash having it on the books under the head of reserved commission and debited all the parties concerned the full amount of their proportions the European sufferers are accordingly debited on fifty eight lacks at 5 per cent making

29,000 0 0

The loss of *batta* on the whole amount received from the treaty was four lacks, seventy five thousand, seven hundred and fifty five rupees fifteen annas and five pice, of which the European sufferers' proportion being as fifty lacks to two hundred and twenty seven, amounted to

1,04,792- 1- 1

The loss upon sale of goods delivered in part of the treaty and the Company's expences in collecting the money amounted to two lacks thirty five thousand six hundred and thirty four rupees eleven annas and six pice of which the European sufferers' proportion, being as before 50 to 227 is

51,901-14- 9

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 57,41,664- 2- 9

Ballance remaining in your hands as per restitution books closed 30 September 1761

58,335-13- 3

whole sum granted to the European sufferers by the treaty

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 Curr't Rs 58,00,000- 0- 0

Since which we have paid according to the extract from the treasury books inclosed in the packet

14,071-11- 3

Now remaining in the Company's hands

44,264- 2- 0

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 58,335-13- 3

But if it be determined that Roydoolub shall not receive the remaining part of his commission, a further sum will come to the credit of the European sufferers as follows

Roydoolub was to receive 5 per cent on all the money except the fifty lacks to the army and navy that is to say on one hundred and seventy seven lacks of *sicca* rupees making *sicca* rupees—8,85,000 at 16 per cent *batta*

10,26,600- 0- 0

He appears to have received

6,48,340-14- 0

And there remains in your hands under the head of reserved commission

3,78,259- 2- 0

Which if it is not to be paid him must be divided as follows

To the Company 100/177ths  
 European Sufferers 50  
 Natives 20  
 Portuguese . 2 .  
 Armenians 5

2,13,706- 0- 0

1,06,853- 0- 0

42,721- 2- 0

4,274- 0- 0

10,685- 0- 0

68. The copies of the dividend books which were sent to you by the Royal George and Ashburnham in the month of October 1763 will shew the particulars of the claims passed by the commissioners amounting as before mentioned principal and interest to 52,46,842 12 3 which appears to have been paid out of your treasury we believe to have arisen from allowances made to the Secretary for himself for writers employed under him and for other charges attending the distribution of the money

69. The vouchers taken for these payments were thus. The claimants signed a dividend paper for the respective sums as they were passed and on signing that paper received an order from the commissioners upon your treasury to receive the money from thence as you will be informed by the copy of a letter in the packet from Mr Cooke the first Commissioner here to our Secretary. The dividend papers are lodged in the Mayor's Court. Of those papers copies have already been sent to you. The orders given by the commissioners on the treasury are in our possession and may also be sent to you if you shall so direct

70. We cannot help remarking that the twelve gentlemen who have filed the bill have therein set forth that they claim on behalf of themselves and of all the English inhabitants of Calcutta for which we believe they are not sufficiently authorized.

71. Mr Van Staden's claim is fully stated in his letter to the Board entered on Consultation the 18th October 1762, to which we need only add that his claim is very just and we think he ought to be considered

72. You have been informed by the last year's treaty with the Nabob that all losses sustained by the English merchants and others residing under the Company's protection in the course of those troubles should be made good to them according to the account which should be proved to the satisfaction of the President and Council. We accordingly formed ourselves into a committee for that purpose and established regulations by which all claims were to be determined these you will find were calculated to reduce the demands to the prime cost of every article and upon which we admitted a reasonable interest and allowance for risk. We opened this committee the 1<sup>st</sup> of February and continued to receive the claims of the merchants untill the 1<sup>st</sup> of October when the whole was nearly closed and the amount to our great surprise turns out between fifty and sixty lacs of rupees. This large amount is chiefly owing to the great extension of the inland trade which of course suffered in all quarters on the breaking out of the troubles particularly at Patna where the whole fortunes of a number of gentlemen were entirely involved. The Nabob has paid to the sufferers one fourth of their several claims and promised to discharge the remainder as speedily as the situation of his affairs will admit

73. In consequence of your orders for discharging the bonds lost at the capture of Calcutta we have paid off the principal and interest of one in the name of Mr Thomas Purnel according to an account current entered after Consultation the 15th of October. In which you will observe is deducted the payment before made on that bond

74. We have also discharged the principal and interest of one in the name of Mr Robert Maisey according to an account current entered on the

same Consultation, having observed in both cases to take the security and indemnification you were pleased to direct

75 With respect to the legacies mentioned in the 83, 84 and 85 paragraphs of your letter of the 22nd February, Hazzoorimul will settle them in the manner you direct We had never received the principal money into the Company's cash but he will now pay it in for an usual interest bond and appoint agents for remitting the interest annually to the charities

*Eighthly of the Dutch and other European nations in India*

76 We have only to mention under this head that no commissaries on the part of the French nation are yet arrived and with respect to the Dutch that we carefully avoid all disputes with them and in the course of this season have had none of any publick notice

*Supplement*

77 Since we began to draw up this letter, your ship the *Calcutta* has arrived from Bombay, dispatched by that Presidency in consequence of our advices of 25th June, to carry them a loading of saltpetre We have therefore determined to increase the supply which was first intended and stationed the *Calcutta* to return immediately to Bombay with six thousand bags

78 As they acquaint us at same time that they shall be in want of tonnage for their intended disposition of six ships for Europe and two for China, on account of the non-arrival of the *Lord Mansfield*, and their being obliged to unload the cargoe of the Mocha ship and send her into dock, we have wrote to the gentlemen at Fort St George to send them round the *Admiral Pocock* as soon as she arrives and if the *Kent* shall import from England in any tolerable time, we have determined to send her round also with a further quantity of salt petre

79 Mr Campbell, the Assay Master, laid before us on the 19th instant, the regulations<sup>7</sup> which we directed him to prepare, for remedying the defects of the mint, and having again considered them in Consultation the 23rd instant, they appeared to us so well calculated for the benefit of the merchants, and so necessary for supporting the credit of the mint, that we determined they should be immediately carried into execution

80 We have appointed Mr Campbell, Mint Master, with the entire charge of the business of the mint, being the only method we have for prosecuting those regulations unless you shall think proper to send out a person as Mint Master equally qualified in the art of refining and assaying

81 We have required of Mr Campbell the necessary accounts for exemplifying the regulations he has proposed, and that the same may be further improved under our directions and we have also ordered him to proceed immediately in teaching two of the Company's covenant servants, the art of refining and assaying, that they may be ready to take charge in case of accidents

82 As the arrival of our reinforcements from England, and the late decisive victory obta[i]ned over Shuja Dowla leave no further plea to delay

the execution of his Majesty's orders for the return of his regiments to England the small remains of the eighty ninth and ninety sixth regiments now here will be embarked on the other two ships of this season.

83 The few men of the 84th Regiment who have remained since last season on our application to Major Sherlock are to be accommodated by Mr Tinker with a passage in the *Medway* and we take this opportunity to mention Capt. Mangin the officer who commanded them as having particularly distinguished himself in the course of last campaign on a separate command in the sircar Sarang country

84 Having had such frequent experience on the little dependance to be placed in the Frenchmen who have served in our military we determined to withdraw them from the army after the mutiny in the month of February and we now intend to return them to Europe on the different ships of this season Twenty six are accordingly embarked on the *Devonshire* of whom a list goes a number in the packett.

85 We have also ordered a passage [on] board her to Lieutenant Van Riel of the marines belonging to his Majesty's ship *Liverpool* and paid Capt. Quicke the sum of £10 for his passage on account of the owners the further sum of £30 for furnishing the Lieutenant with provisions at his table. We have refered him to receive payment from you according to the instructions in your letter of the 31st March 1763

86 Amongst the indents in the packet there is one sent by the chaplains for books wanted for the use of the church which we request may not be omitted to be complied with.

87 At our Consultation this day we received a remonstrance from the officers who came out in the *Success* setting forth their claim to take rank in the service from the dates of the commissions which you granted them in England and containing a further claim from Lieutenant Thomas in consequence of the tenor of his commission to take rank next after Mr Isaac Tullie who was promoted by you to be a lieutenant on the arrival of your orders of the 9th May but who by course of the service had been appointed a lieutenant on this establishment the 4th February 1764 We have answered to this application that as your intention with respect to their rank is not clearly ascertained we cannot pretend to determine on their remonstrance untill the arrival of the other officers named in your letter of the 9th May 1764 the nature of whose commissions may probably furnish us with further lights.

88 But in the meantime we have agreed to refer the case to your honours for your determination and we must further recommend to you to leave no such occasions for doubt as to the rank of your officers in future

89 Mr John tone begs leave to express his gratefull acknowledgements to his honorable employers for having restored him to his former rank and station in their service and to assure them it shall be as it ever has been his study to support the Honor and promote the Interest of the Company humbly hoping that his endeavours hitherto in the stations he has filled have been such as to merit their approbation and the continuance of their confidence at all times

90 The entire defeat of Shuja Dowla's army by Major Munro, on the 23rd last month, affording a prospect of tranquility to these provinces, Mr Vansittart acquaints us that he purposes to quit the Government in three or four days and proceed in his Majesty's ship *York* to Madrass, where after a very short stay he shall embark for Europe in the *Medway* and he has accordingly delivered in a letter this day, advising your honours of his intentions, which goes a number in the packet by the *Devonshire*

91 By the *Devonshire* we have licensed a bulse of diamonds value Arcot rupees eleven thousand six hundred (11,600) as will more particularly appear by the manifest in the packet

92 We have laden and consigned to your honours by this ship sundry goods and merchandize amounting to current rupees 8,00,000, the particulars whereof are agreeably to the invoice and first bill of lading enclosed

93 We have also at the request of Capt Quicke, laden on board her, fifteen hundred bags of salt petre as surplus tonnage at half freight, for which we transmit in the packet a seperate bill of lading

94 We have further laden on her sundry stores for the use of your island of St Helena, amounting to current rupees 1,272-8-6 as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to the Governor and Council there

We are,  
Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithfull and obedient servants,  
(Signed) Henry Vansittart / John Spencer /  
Chs Stafford Playdell / Warren Has-  
tings / John Johnstone / Samuel  
Middleton / Ralph Leycester / John  
Burdett

Fort William,  
26th November 1764  
[Original per *Devonshire*]

*Postscript* [sic]

We have drawn upon your honors by this ship 63 setts of bills of exchange at 365 days sight and the usual forms the particulars whereof are as follows and amount in all to C Rs 13,68,476-12-6 or £ St 1,59,655-11-8

At 365 days

<i>From granted</i>	<i>C Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ St</i>
1 Peter Davies acct. Ralph Rulley	4,285-11 6	Messrs. Wm and Robbert Charlton or order	500- 0- 0
1 Standale Bar on	171-428- 9 0	Himself or order	20,000- 0- 0
1 Andrew Quicke	34,285-11 6	Himself or Ditto	4,000- 0- 0
1 Peter Davies acct. the estate of William Alves	41,189- 2 6	Messrs. Harries Cochran & Co or order acct.	
1 Parker Hatley	25,714 4 9	Miss Henrietta Cockburne	4,801 15- 8
1 John Clatham acct. Walter Brown	18,000- 0- 0	1 Newman Hatley and Richd. Wright or order	3,000- 0- 0
1 Russell Skinner	9,334 4 6	1 Jno. Mayne Esqr and Sr Wm Mayne Baronet	2,100- 0- 0
1 Randall John Marriott	857 7 3	Jno. Zephia. Holwell	1,089 0- 0
1 Henry Vanantant Esqr in full proceeds of 1 chest of coral mld. F impd. per Ld		Mary Marriott Senr	100- 0- 0
<i>Cler 1 63</i>			
1 Do. Do. in full proceeds of coral mld. (symbol)	3,573- 6- 9	Abraham Levy Sonino	416-18- 0
1 Do. Do. in full proceeds of coral mld. (symbol)	1,133- 3- 9	Do Do Do.	132 4 2
1 Do. Do. in full proceeds of coral mld. (symbol) N 5 imp. per ship <i>Deptsfort</i> 1763	3,748- 0- 9	Judah Supino	437 5- 5
1 Do. Do. in full proceeds of coral mld. (symbol) N 28 imp. per <i>Ashburnham</i> 1762	2,615-15- 6	Do. Do.	305- 3- 0
1 Do. Do. in full proceeds of coral mld. (symbol) N 30 per Ld <i>Cler</i> 1763	2,707 0- 3	Do. Do.	315-16- 4
1 Do. Do. Do. mld. (symbol) N 31 per Ld <i>Cler</i> 1763			

1 & trade symbols (the E.L. Company used in the Correspondence see p 707 of Vol. II of *Fort William—India House Correspondence*)

1	Do	Do	Do	m[k [symbol] N 4 impd per <i>Ashburnham</i> 1763	3,045-11- 6	Do	Do	.	.	.	.	355- 6- 8
1	Henry Vansittart Esqr .	.	.	.	347-14- 9	The Hon'ble Thos Howe	.	.	.	.	.	40-11- 9
1	Do	Dõ account Nathaniel Paul	.	.	4,973-15- 0	Francis Woodhouse	.	.	.	.	.	580- 5-11
1	Do	Do . . . . .	.	.	1,292- 4- 0	Sober Hall	.	.	.	.	.	150-[?]-[?]
1	Jno Graham acct Wm Fullerton	.	.	.	12,857- 2- 3	Edward Buckley Batson	.	.	.	.	.	1,500- 0- 0
1	Randht Marriott acct Jno Graham	.	.	.	74,549- 9- 6	Wm McGwire and Archer Annesly or either of the orders	.	.	.	.	.	8,697- 9- 0
1	Andrew Robson	.	.	.	7,130-10- 6	Himself	.	.	.	.	.	831-18- 2
1	Saml Henry Mangin acct Captn Chs Long, Lieut Jno Hartland and Thos Wiltshire	.	.	.	8,897-12- 0	Saml Henry Mangin	.	.	.	.	.	1,038- 1- 5
1	Richd Barwell acct Anselm Beamont	.	.	.	64,349-11- 9	George Challoner	.	.	.	.	.	7,507- 9- 4
1	Saml Henry Mangin	.	.	.	20,435- 1- 0	Himself	.	.	.	.	.	2,384- 1- 9
1	Henry Hygens	.	.	.	33,819- 8- 3	Archibald McLean	.	.	.	.	.	3 945-12- 2
1	Alexr Scott and Chs Weston acct estate of Ths Blany deceased	.	.	.	20,571- 6- 9	Capt Jonathan Ranson	.	.	.	.	.	2,400- 0- 0
1	John Martindell	.	.	.	4,320- 0- 0	John Martindall	.	.	.	.	.	504- 0- 0
1	John May	.	.	.	26,702- 1- 9	Himself	.	.	.	.	.	3,115- 4-10
1	John Green	.	.	.	35,256- 7- 3	Himself	.	.	.	.	.	4,113- 5- 0
1	Do	Do .	.	.	25,028- 3- 9	Ditto	.	.	.	.	.	2,919-19- 3
1	Do	Do	.	.	23,594-10- 9	Ditto	.	.	.	.	.	2,752-14- 6
1	Do	Do	.	.	16,114- 2- 0	Ditto	.	.	.	.	.	1,879-19- 7
1	William Crawford	.	.	.	857- 2- 3	Mrs Clare Crawford	.	.	.	.	.	100- 0- 0
1	Jno Zacha Kurnander acct Geo Kahler	.	.	.	8,204-14- 9	Elizabeth Kahler	.	.	.	.	.	957- 4- 9
1	John Travanion	.	.	.	32,832- 8- 0	Himself	.	.	.	.	.	3,830- 9- 2
1	Jno Zacha Kurnander acct Lieut Paul Neidrick	.	.	.	4,411- 4- 6	Isabell Neidrick	.	.	.	.	.	514-13- 0
1	Do	Do	.	.	4,731-10- 0	Captn John Tate	.	.	.	.	.	552-0-[3?] ]
1	Ralph Leycester acct ye estate of Heny Lushington	.	.	.	20,000- 0- 0	The Revd Heny Lushington and Roger Altham	.	.	.	.	.	2,333- 6- 8



<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>C Rs</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>£ St</i>
1 To Lt John Grant	21,527 5-6	Col Eyre Coote	2,546-10-5
1 Do Do	9,944 1 6	Majr Richd. Sherlock	1 160- 2 10
1 Do Do	5,947 0-3	The Exrs. of Captin. Chrstr Eiser	693- 4 8
1 Do Do acct. ve estate of Captin. John Irving	3,993-14 9	Edward Irving	465-19 2
1 Do Lt John Grant	1,079 57 2 3	Himself or order	12,000- 0 0
1 Do Miss Humbley	25,714 4 6	Henry Vansittart and Edward Willes Esqrs.	3,000- 0-0
1 Ralph Leicester acct. ve estate of Wm North	8,525- 8-6	Richd. Becher and Wm Nixon	994 12 11
1 Do Do acct. ve estate of Henry Lushington	80,000- 0-0	The Revd Henry Lushington and Roger Altham	9,333- 6-8
1 Ralph Leicester acct. the estate of Major Ransell the Knave	60,000- 0-0	The Rt. Honble Ld. Mount Chs. the Revd. Mr Geo Knox and Lieut. J O Knox and Mr Foster	7,000- 0-0
1 Richd. Barwell the nt. proceeds of 3 chests of coral beads mtd. BDE No 7 8 5 10 impd. per shop &c and <i>Earl of Holderness</i> 1761	25,866- 5-3	Messrs. Jacob Mosik and Raphael Franco	3,017 14 9
1 Major Alvar Champion	17 147 13 9	Himself	2,000- 0 0
1 The Staff of Playdell acct. ve heirs of Ths. Ferrell	50,509 13- 9	Jno. Zepha. Holwell	5,892 16- 4
1 He self Skinner acct. Captin. Freake	4,933-10-6	Captin. John Freake	575-11 9
1 Do Do acct. Captin. Tydd	5,028-14 9	Captin. Thomas Tydd	586-14 2
1 Do Do acct. ve estate of Lieut. Isaac Humphreys	11,097 5- 9	Do. Do.	1,294 13-10
1 R's self Crevier acct. Richard Becher	11,099 12 3	Himself or order	1,294 19 5
1 R's self Crevier acct. Wm Waller	1,500- 0-0	William Waller	175- 0-0
1 Do the Revd. Robt. Sumner	4,000- 5-9	The Revd. Robt Sumner	466-14 0
1 Mr r Cavalier	8,640- 0-0	Messrs. Scott and Pringle	1,008- 0-0

1 Robert Gregory acct	Adam Dawson	6,186-11- 9	Adam Dawson	721-15- 8
1 John Gould		14,000- 0- 0	Captn Peter Pigou	1,633- 6- 8
1 Robt Gregory acct	Scott Pringle and Cheap	6,501- 5- 6	Messrs Scott and Pringle	758- 9- 9
1 Barker Hatley		8,571- 6- 9	Newman Hatley and Richd Wright or order	1,000- 0- 0
1 Russell Skinner and Js Grant acct ye estate of Majr Thos Adams		32,285-11- 6	Themselves or order	4,466-13- 4
1 Saml Bartho Case acct	Majr Francis Alisieu	7,283- 4- 3	Captn Chas Marsh	849-13-10
1 John Spencer Esqr		55,859-11- 6	Joseph Vere Esqr , Sr Richd Glynn and Mr Hallifax	6,516-19- 4
63 Setts	Curr Rupees	<u>13,68,476-12- 6</u>	£St	<u>1,59,655-11- 8</u>

Errors excepted

Fort William,  
15 November 1764

We have also drawn on you 40 notes payable at 2 1/4 per cent rupee and 90 days after sight amounting Rs. 1,31,523-3-6 or Rs. 15,448-10 as follows —

To be granted	C Rupees	To whom payable	£ St
1 Richard Barwell	4285-11-6	William Barwell	500-0-0
1 Andrew Beaumont	4285-11-6	George Challoner	500-0-0
1 William Mayendie	428-9-0	William Mayendie	50-0-0
1 Ditto	428-9-0	Ditto	50-0-0
1 Ditto	1000-0-0	Ditto	116-13-4
1 Captain Robin Campbell acct ve esta. of Mrs Annetta Campbell	427-7-6	The Honble Alexr Fraser	49-17-57]
1 Stanlake Batson	4285-11-6	Himself	500-0-0
1 Harry Palmer	3428-9-0	James Shaw	400-0-0
1 William Walker	857-2-3	Mathew and Jno Walker	100-0-0
1 Joseph Jekyll	2571-6-9	Eliza Brownwood Jno Langmore and Thomas Jekyll	300-0-0
1 Richard Witte	3188-14-3	William Barwell	372-0-9
1 The Co. Le acct Chas. Rogers	1028-9-0	William Rogers	120-0-0
1 Richard John Marriott and John Graham	434-0-3	Yvyr Burgess	50-10-5]
1 Sutt n Banks	857-2-3	William Waller	100-0-0
1 Leut. Hales	2-42-13-6	Josiah Hales	250-0-0
1 James Keighley	857-2-3	William Barwell	100-0-0
1 Simon Druce	2928-6-3	Charles Bouleau	329-19-7
1 Benj Randall acct Lieut George Thomas	857-2-3	Maria Thomas	100-0-0
1 Benjamin Randall	3428-9-0	Himself	400-0-0
1 Do acct of Wm. Hestman	1714-4-6	Benjamin Randall	200-0-0
1 John Rathbone acct of Henry Goodwine	857-2-3	Ann Goodwine	100-0-0
1 Saml Bartholomew Case	2571-6-9	Messrs D'la Haize and Dinck	300-0-0
1 Messrs Leicester and Barwell	670-2-6	Anna Maria Scott	78-3-8



## LETTER DATED 3 DECEMBER 1764

*Capture of Madura—Mr Vansittart's departure*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs

[1] Since closing our dispatches by this ship the *Devonshire* we have received certain advice by private letters from Fort St. George of the fall of Madura which was delivered up to our army on the 14th October by Usoff Cawn's own troops and the French deserters upon a suspicion that Usoff Cawn intended to provide for his own escape with a few followers. Your honours will no doubt be advised of the particulars by the *Duke of Albany* from Fort St. George but we also judged it proper to give you the general informations of that success.

[2] Mr Vansittart having agreeably to the intimation given you in the Publick Letter of the 26th ultimo embarked for Fort St. George. We are to acquaint you that Mr Spencer has taken upon him the charge of the Government.

[3] The supply of treasure for China having been compleated to ten lacks of rupees is now embarked on the *Argo* frigate and she will sail in two or three days

We are with respect Hon'ble Sir and Sirs

Your most faithfull and obedient  
humble servants

Fort William  
3d December 1764  
[Original per *Devonshire*  
Duplicate per *Vansittart*  
Triplicate per *Bute*]

(Signed) John Spencer / Chas. Staffil  
Playdell / Warren Hastings / John  
Johnstone / Saml. Middleton / Ralph  
Leycester / John Burdett.

## LETTER DATED 3 JANUARY 1765

*Deposition of Mr & Munro with Beni Bahadur and Shah Alam—paper  
of set off—executed by Shah Alam—nature of assault on the part of Chums*

*garh—Shah Alam's execution of the articles and making over to the English the zemindari held by Balwant Singh*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 Our last address bearing date the 26th November, was transmitted by the ship *Devonshire* directly from hence, and we now embrace the opportunity by the *Caernarvon* and his Majesty's ship *Medway* via Fort St George to give you information of what has since occurred in the prosecution of the war against Shuja Dowla, reserving other points to be advised by our next ship from this place, which we imagine will arrive with you nearly as soon as these

2 Major Munro having continued his march towards Benaris, found the King and Beny Bahadre still there on his arrival, and received our letters of the 6th November prior to which some messages had passed between him and the former, and he had had an interview with Beny Bahadre  
 Cons 6th Decr when he positively acquainted him that before any accommodation could take place with Shuja Dowla, Sombre, and our deserters must as we had all along insisted be given up to us, with this information Beny Bahadre accordingly repaired to Shuja Dowla, promising if he did not comply that he would leave him and be at disposal of the English. But the Major in a few days after received a letter from each of them acquainting him that his demand could not then be complied with, though they hoped it might some time hence, Major Munro having on receipt of our instructions acquainted the King with our resolution in his favor, he expressed great satisfaction thereat, and a readiness to act in every respect conformably to our desire, and the Major with his address advising of these particulars, transmitted to us sundry letters from him, together with a paper of proposals, which were wrote before he was acquainted with our instructions to the Major, urging us to establish ourselves and him in the possession of Shuja Dowla's country

3 Finding ourselves thus obliged to continue the war, we thought it proper to demand from the King whom we were to support as Shuja Dowla's competitor, some further considerations, besides the tract of country as far as Benaris which we informed you we should keep possession of, supposing we even acceded to a peace with Shuja Dowla, and we accordingly transmitted to Major Munro a paper of articles<sup>1</sup> to be executed by His Majesty, assigning to us the whole country of Gauzeepoor, and the rest of the zemindarry of Bulwant Singh, with the same rights, and in as full a manner as enjoyed by Shuja Dowla, and engaging himself moreover to reimburse to the Company the expences of the war from the time of his joining us. We at the same [*sic*] transmitted the Major the necessary instructions, but we have not yet received

an answer from him. For your more particular information on these points, we refer you to our Consultation of the 6th ultimo a copy whereof as far as relates to them we transmit you in the packet.

4 After Major Munro had been furnished from Patna with the stores for which he waited and had also taken the necessary precautions for having the army properly supplied with provisions and that his boats might be able to proceed he marched towards Illahabad whether we advised you Shuja Dowla had fled after his defeat, and when he came opposite to Churnagur Fort, he crossed a proper detachment in order to lay siege to it. A practicable breach having been accordingly made in one of the curtains in the morning of the 2nd ultimo the same was ordered by dawn of day on the 3rd to be stormed but by the bad behavior of the seapoys who would not advance but kept a close fire into it which prevented the Europeans also from getting forward the assault miscarried a disposition having been made for a second attempt the same evening thirty volunteers turned out of the pioneer company and from the rest of the Europeans who begged to lead the van which was consented to but after having got to the breach they were struck with such a panic, although the opposition made by the enemy was not near so great as at the first assault that they ran back upon the grenadier company and they upon the rest who were to support them and by this means the whole gave way nor could be prevailed on to rally although the officers exerted every endeavor and means for the purpose. The officers were so much disconcerted and chagrined at this unexpected behavior in their men that they offered to go themselves on the forlorn hope and storm but as it was to be apprehended from the former backwardness of the troops that they might not properly support them it was not judged advisable to make the attempt.

5 In the mean time Major Munro having received intelligence that Shuja Dowla had advanced from Illahabad within seventeen coss of him and was striking out of the road to get in his rear either to cut off his communication with his boats or endeavor to carry off the King he was obliged to turn the siege into a blockade for which service he left two battalions of seapoys with two eighteen pounders and a howitzer and returned with the rest of the army to Benares but soon after finding that Shuja Dowla approached still nearer him and that he had sent a party to the relief of Churnagur he recalled the detachment from thence and waited with the whole army in hopes of bringing him to another general action. The President has had advices from the Major down to the 22nd ultimo when he informed him that Shuja Dowla still avoided coming to an engagement though his horse were constantly moving round our camp and had that day approached so near as to oblige him to turn out the line that three or four days before on the occasion of his ordering a salute the enemy thought we were marching to attack them and immediately retired three coss further and that their artillery was then about eighteen coss off.

6 We hope however by our next ship to be able to advise you that the Major has successfully effected his intention of bringing them again to action together with the reduction in consequence of Churnagur and the city of Illahabad and thus we think must certainly put a final period to the war and

firmly establish the King in the intended possession of Shuja Dowla's country

We are with the greatest respect  
Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithfull and obedient  
humble servants,

Fort William,  
the 3rd January 1765

J Spencer / C S Playdell / Ralph  
Leycester / John Burdett

*Postscript*

Since writing the foregoing, the President has received advice from Major Munro, that the King has executed the articles we transmitted him and was also preparing proper *sunnu*s for making over to us the zemindary held by Bulwant Sing

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs,

Your faithful humble servants,

J Spencer / C S Playdell / Ralph  
Leycester

[Per *Medway*]

14

LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1765

*Details of the war with Shujaud-Daulah and his offers for peace—assure the Court of not extending the English influence in India—Shah Alam agrees to defray the expenses of war from the time he joined the English—payment towards restitution fund by Mir Jafar—Maratha designs in Midnapore—news about illness of Mir Jafar*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 Since our last general address from this Department by the *Devonshire* of the 26th of November, we wrote you under the 3rd instant by the *Caernarvon* and His Majesty's ships *Medway* via Fort St George with other copies thereof and giving you a further detail of what had occurred to that time in the prosecution of the war with Shuja Dowla, of which address you have also herewith another copy

2 Our army and Shuja Dowla's have since continued nearly in the same situation, no opportunity having offered for effecting the design mentioned



to you of bringing him again to action from the risk we should be exposed to by advancing of having the communication with our boats of stores and provisions cut off In a letter of the 14th from Major Fletcher upon whom the command of the army has devolved on Major Munro's quitting it to embark for Europe we were informed of his intention of marching that evening to endeavour to surprize them and at least get possession of their baggage but by his last we learn that the people employed in consequence to cut a road across a nulla about two miles in the front of our encampment had fixed on a place so steep on the opposite bank that day light appeared before the whole were passed. He was therefore obliged to halt but as he found Shuja Dowla continuing on the same ground he had determined to pursue his scheme in the evening and we hope before the close of the dispatch to be able to give you a satisfactory account of this step We hope and suppose Major Fletcher has taken the necessary precautions for the security of his boats and he mentions that he was further engaged to the scheme he has pursued from Bulwant Sing having left our army and the reports that Nudjeff Cawn a principal chief of the empire whom Major Munro had been endeavouring to engage to come in to the King was on the contrary about to join Shuja Dowla. Brigadier General Carnac is now on his way up to resume the command.

3 You will understand from the foregoing advice that Shuja Dowla has not yet thought proper to acquiesce in our first demand In his last letters he has however appeared much more earnest in his offers for peace than he had before and though this is a measure we should some time ago have rejoiced

to see take place yet as through his obstinacy we have now entered into engagements with the King no accomodation can be effected without a due regard to the interest of His Majesty and those engagements and previous to all the absolute delivery into our hands of Meer Coxim Sombre and the deserters If this demand is implicitly complied with and the King's affairs can be settled to his satisfaction an accomodation may be more eligible than a continuance of the war We find Major Munro before his departure had sounded His Majesty on this subject but that he declined giving any reply thereto till he saw the part which Shuja Dowla should act upon our first demands should this be complied with we have directed his (the King's) sentiments on a peace in general to be transmitted us as soon as possible that we may come to the necessary regulations At the same time least this should create any doubts with him in respect to our conduct we have thought it proper to renew in the strongest terms the assurance of our firm attachment to him and given directions that in any correspondence with Shuja Dowla particular care is observed that we do not appear inclined to deviate from our engagements with His Majesty without his approbation These engagements we must however mention are only such as our interest and the circumstances of the war naturally led us into

4 And here it is proper in consequence of the 2nd paragraph of your letter of the 1st of June to refer your honors again to the 8th of our last letters of the 26th November by the *Deputee* and to repeat and confirm the assurance we therein gave you that we do not wish to extend our connection beyond what may appear necessary for securing the future tranquility of the country That this is and will always be the *Exclusif* of our contemplation



Walter Reinhardt *alias* Samru



and that whatever engagements we may enter into, they shall be such only as tend to this point and the promotion of your commercial interests

5 The King has continued to remain always with our army, and has executed in part the *plurmaund*<sup>1</sup> we mentioned in our last. What was omitted therein, although His Majesty afterwards appears in some degree to have assented thereto in a letter to Major Munro, is the article

Cons 28 Janr which relates to his defraying the expences of the war from the time he joined us. As our army is now employed so much for his benefit, it is highly reasonable he should bear the Company clear of expence in the service and we have therefore desired that an opportunity may be taken of conferring with him on the subject, and his compliance in writing pressed as far as prudence and propriety may admit

6 His Majesty having no resources for his immediate support, and judging it proper that he should receive every testimony of our respect and attachment we directed such sums to be advanced him for the expences of his household as his exigencies might absolutely require till he was put in full possession of Shujah Dowla's country, and we find he has in consequence received the amount which has yet been collected on our new revenues, being about ninety thousand rupees, the proper receipts and promissory notes for the refunding of the same having been first taken

Cons 28 Janr

7 It appears that little more than one third of those revenues are yet secured and seven laaks of rupees is therefore esteemed to be as much as can be collected for this year

8 The Nabob having executed the *kistbundee* for the payment of the ballance due of the restitution fund, could no longer be prevailed on to remain in Calcutta, as we had recommended till Lord Clive's arrival. He accordingly set out for the city the 14th of December and Mr Middleton agreeably to his appointment proceeded to his station at his Durbar, after receiving from us such instructions as appeared necessary to be given him, which were in general to press the Nabob for the regular payments of his assignments towards defraying the expences of the war, and his compliance with the terms of the *kistbundee* for payment of the ballances of the restitution, to endeavor to procure and transmit us as soon as possible an exact state of the Nabob's revenues and of the expences of his government, also an account of the number of his troops, and to make it his particular study to promote in every respect a good harmony and understanding between us

Cons 13 Decr 1764

9 The payments on the first accounts have been hitherto continued pretty regularly, and twenty laaks in tale [*sic*] of the restitution fund have been also compleated, on the other points, we have not yet been informed by Mr Middleton, but we are now to advise you that by advices to the President lately received we learn His Excellency was dangerously ill, and we have in consequence for the present ordered up a party of sepoys with a view of preventing any confusion in the city, and to countenance and support his family in case of his demise

Cons 31 Janr

10 By the 11th paragraph of our address per *Devonshire* and the Consultation of the 17th October therein referred to, you would find we had taken

into our consideration the subject of the inland trade and formed some resolutions thereupon but that the order we were about to give  
 Cons. 25 Janr. in consequence had been suspended on receipt of your commands of the 9th of May wherein you informed us you should send by the *Kent* your more particular opinion and instructions concerning the affairs of the country government. We observe what your honors have now further said *per Lapring* but as Lord Clive and the other gentlemen may be now early expected to arrive, we have continued to defer for the present at least any further proceedings on the subject.

11 In consequence of advices received of motions making by the Morattas, which seemed to indicate a design of giving us some disturbance in the Midna poor province and as any irruption from them must prove very detrimental to our collections as well there as in Burdwan and to our  
 Cons. 17 Decr affairs in general, we ordered a proper detachment under the command of Major Champion to march and take post so as most effectually to avert their design if such it should be, but we now learn that they seem to have too much trouble in subduing their own zemindars to admit of their entering these provinces.

12. On our resolution of supporting the King in the possession of Shuja Dowla's country judging that from the sickness and the accidents of war our European forces would possibly be much reduced which  
 Cons. 17 Decr besides was shortly to suffer a very considerable and certain diminution by the return of His Majesty's troops to Europe and as from the late departure of the transports from thence we did not expect they would arrive in time for the recruits on board to prove of any assistance to us we determined considering the situation of affairs on the Coast from the reduction of Madura to apply to the gentlemen there for a reinforcement both of infantry and artillery. A further reason which rendered this application necessary was the appearance beforementioned of an invasion from the Morattas. We have since received a part of your recruits by the *Fort William* and should the reinforcement be no longer wanted on their arrival we shall take the first opportunity of returning it.

### Supplement

13 Since writing the foregoing we have received two letters from Major Fletcher advising of his further proceedings from the time of his address of the 15th of which for your more particular information we transmit you copies in the packet and though we are happy to communicate to you such advice of his success and hope it will be productive of very good consequences yet we cannot help thinking he hazarded rather too much on the occasion. Major Munro is now arrived and we shall with his assistance immediately proceed to take into our consideration the present situation of our affairs with the King and Shuja Dowla.

14 We have also received a letter from the Resident at the Durbar of the 29th ultimo confirming the information of the Nabob being dangerously ill but the President has had private advice from Mr  
 Co. 4 J. 1 Mr Melton of the 1st instant that he is so much amended as to be out of any immediate danger and though from his age and natural

infirmities, his decease cannot be very remote<sup>2</sup> yet as such an event in the present juncture of affairs would occasion much confusion through the provinces, we must earnestly hope for his recovery

We are with the greatest respect,  
Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful and  
obedient humble servants,

J Spencer / C S Playdell / Ralph  
Leycester / John Burdett

Fort William,  
the 6th February 1765  
[Per Vansittart]

15

## LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1765

*Representation of Mr Spencer against supersession by Mr Sumner*

**T**O the Hon'ble Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

[1] As I have already addressed myself to you jointly with the gentlemen of Council in relation to the affairs of this Presidency, I shall here confine myself to the representation that I think it necessary to make to you in consequence of the arrangement of your affairs in your orders of the 1st June, lately received by the *Lapwing*. Sorry am I to have occasion so to do as they respect myself, having till lately an entire confidence that near twenty four years of faithful services to the Hon'ble Company would have secured me from the disagreeable circumstances that have attended me since my removal hither in consequence of your directions to Bombay by the *Speaker*

[2] Those orders found me at Bombay in the management of an extensive commerce, however, I hesitated not a moment to relinquish my prospects and advantages there, though by my so doing, the manner in which I was obliged to finish my concerns at so short a warning as I had, did much prejudice my fortune. At the same time we had at Bombay such accounts of the desperate situation of your affairs here, that after the honor you had done me by such a confidential appointment, I can with truth assert those accounts were with me an additional inducement to proceed hither without delay, and at all hazards, thinking I ought to sacrifice everything to the confidence that was reposed in me by your said commands

[3] Your own registers here shew that I arrived at this place in May, and from that time to Mr Vansittart's departure, the end of November, I reaped no advantage from any office in your service, dedicating my whole time to

acquire the necessary knowledge in the details of your affairs and the business here which only was requisite for my long residence in India and the extensive correspondence I have for many years carried on with the heads of your settlements having made me master of the situation of affairs in the general at all your Presidencies My assiduity in this was encouraged by the absolute appointment of me in your commands of the 8th February 1764 second and successor at this Presidency This then being the case judge what must have been my mortification and what my chagrin to find in so short an interval of time as between that and the 9th May without any delinquency of mine or cause assigned this absolute nomination by yourselves set aside not only in favor of Lord Clive but of Mr Sumner his second and successor and myself entirely excluded<sup>1</sup> and indeed unprovided for in any shape by the tenor of the said letter it being there only intimated that I was to return to Bombay without further explanation.

[4] Certain it is, that from the sense of my treatment at that juncture, nothing but the united wishes of the place for my keeping charge till your ultimate resolves were known Mr Vansittart's pressing instances, and my own knowledge of the confusion that might otherwise ensue in your affairs could have induced me to remain longer abroad after such a want of confidence in me as this your nomination and appointment seemed to indicate However the above considerations operated so strongly as to induce me to forego every other consideration for what the voice of the place esteemed to be for the general good

[5] As your honors have been entirely silent on the motives that induced you after so firmly appointing me to the succession to set it aside in this manner I can only guess at it from what appears in the publick papers viz the disgust and opposition that might arise here from the nomination of a servant from one settlement to another and that Lord Clive's coming would conciliate the affection of the Government and quiet the minds of the concerned at home

[6] Happy is the reflection to me that my appointment here so far from being preclusive of the ill consequences apprehended at home that it is but doing the gentlemen of the settlement justice to say the strictest unanimity has prevailed among u and I was confident that with such a disposition in u the greatest good must have resulted to your concerns in general. It will be a happy circumstance for the place if the same harmony continues after my leaving it As I look on the sentiments of the gentlemen as a mark of honor to me in particular I have taken the liberty with them and you to enclose in this copy of the letter from the Board to me and also of several gentlemen which will shew the sense the place in general had of your appointment and the fair prospect of unanimity that I had afore me

from that time till my taking charge, obstinately persisted in the appearance and dress of a faquir

[8] Mr Sumner<sup>2</sup> I am not known to, or know, but believe his character a respectable one, but to one who knows these people, it can not be supposed he can ever regain the confidence of the Government, as he was one of the committee that promoted and supported the deposition of the Nabob, and active therein. He is called, I see, and supported as a senior servant to me, by turning to your own registers it will be seen that I commenced a writer in September 1741, Mr Sumner in November 1744. And I became one of your Council in September 1754, and Mr Sumner not till January 1759. It ill becomes any man to say anything of himself or point out his own conduct. I shall therefore in this respect beg leave to refer myself to your own approval of it in your several commands to the Presidency of Bombay.

[9] My sudden removal from Bombay hither, as before observed, much prejudiced my fortune, as you must yourselves be sensible how inconvenient it is to a merchant who has extensive dealings to wind them up at a short warning. My friends pointed it out to me as a desirable object to revive a spirit of commerce here, a thing so evidently calculated for the general good of the place, that it is a fact that I have since my arrival here entered into some voyages chiefly with that view, and with the hopes that I should be able in time to lead the views of the gentlemen to a sea commerce to induce them not to depend solely on the inland trade, which, as lately carried on, has involved the concerned and you in so many disputes and is in several respects so disagreeable to the country government. With these views I have since my arrival and in confidence of your nomination entered deeply into business here, and have many outstanding and depending concerns that can scarce be adjusted but by myself in person, or at best much to my disadvantage. These views led me to engage in heavy ships and blocks, and let me leave it to your consideration gentlemen, how much I must suffer in my fortune to have it thus launched out in trade and thus abruptly called in again by this your sudden intention of removing me to Bombay, as I see in your orders of the 1st June, received a few days since by the *Lapwing*, exclusive of the heavy expence that has attended the removal of my family backwards and forwards within the course of a year.

[10] These however, are not the considerations that have the most weight with me or that lay me under my present difficulty. Where my fortune is concerned only, it relates only to myself and family, but give leave to say that in the present case both your and my reputation are nearly concerned. By your own appointment, by your own nomination, unexpected by me, I came down here, I have in consequence thereof been received and respected by the Europeans and by the country government as your President of this settlement, and have been for some months to all intents and purposes your President and Governor of this important settlement. I have the pleasure to say I filled it with satisfaction to myself and the place, as you may judge by the letter addressed to me by the Board on your packet by the *Lapwing*, putting a period to my power here, by which you will see I am requested to continue it till Lord Clive may arrive. This, inconvenient as it is to me, I have consented to, that at such a critical conjuncture your affairs may not suffer, though I do imagine it will keep me here a longer time than I could wish, as



the season is near expired and we yet hear nothing of the *Kent* I shall however if his Lordship arrives in time proceed to Bombay But I cannot with any degree of reputation to myself or for the credit of your service accept to act as a second at another settlement having presided at this. I will nevertheless go there I will in case of accidents take charge there till your further pleasure on this my situation is known. From your justice and candor I shall hope and rely on the immediate succession at a Presidency and as affairs are circumstanced I flatter myself that my appointment to this will be confirmed when my case comes to be duly considered

[11] If in the course of this any thing improper has dropped from my pen, impute it to the earnestness of a man pleading in the warmth of his heart his own cause. No offence is meant by me but only to state my situation honestly and candidly to you and in confidence that you will do me the justice my case requires on a further consideration of it. I shall here only add that I have the honor to be with respect

Fort William  
6th February 1765  
{Per *Lansittars*}

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs  
Your most obedient humble servant  
J Spencer

## 16

## LETTER DATED 6 FEBRUARY 1765

*Loss of the Nancy—construction of a new building for the factory at Chittagong—settlement of Lansittars account of the commission due to him on Company's lands—reduction in batta payable to the army deferred—civil and military appointments—subordination of military officers to civil authority*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

1 Under date the 26th November we dispatched to you the ship *Deton* and by her transmitted you our General Letter from this Department under the usual established heads. We also afterwards addressed you a few lines by her to advise you of the fall of Madura and have since forwarded to you other copies of those advices by the *Carnarvon* and His Majesty's ship *Medea* via Port St George

2 In the former we acquainted you that we had stationed the *Lansittars* for a few weeks and returned ship her cargo having been accordingly laden she is now expected to return and by her we proceed to give you such further information as may appear necessary

3 Your packet the *Lapwing* and the ship *Fort William* another of the transports have both safely imported and brought us your commands of the 16th May and 1st June last We observe your instructions in regard to the former, and shall shortly determine on some proper method of disposing her In the mean time she has been ordered upto town We have heard nothing yet of the other two expected transports or of the *Kent* You will observe by the supplement to our last address, our intention of sending the latter round to Bombay should she arrive in time and you may depend on our attention to your orders now received for her proceeding thither as soon as possible after she has landed her passengers and consignments

4 The *Success* having as advised in our last address been discharged the Company's service, the agents for the owners tendered to us their bill for the ballance of her freight amounting to £ St 1,126-13-4 which on reference to the account transmitted in her packet appearing to be the just amount due the same, was ordered to be paid out of our treasury The journals and other books delivered to us by the captain are now transmitted to you

5 We have directed the commander of the *Fort William* to give us immediate advise when she is clear when we shall in like manner discharge her from the service and require the books of her voyage

6 The *Caernarvon* received her dispatches for Fort St George the 3rd instant when not hearing any thing yet of the *Bute* since Capt Maitland's letter to us from Batavia mentioned in the 5th paragraph of our last address, we requested the President and Council there in order that we might be provided against the disappointment of a latter ship, to dispatch round to us the *Princess Augusta*, which they informed us they expected to arrive with them towards the end of the year with a part of the Manilla garrison But we have now the pleasure to advise your honours that soon after taking this precaution, the *Bute* safely imported with us For information on the causes of her so late arrival, we refer you to letters from Capt Maitland entered on our Consultation of the 21st ultimo, her Batavia cargo has been landed and as soon as she has been surveyed and reported in fit condition, her consignments for Europe shall be loaded without loss of time

7 The *Calcutta* having received her loading of salt petre was dispatched to Bombay the 17th ultimo and as she was just on the point of her departure when the *Bute* arrived, and we judged it essential to give the gentlemen at Fort St George the earliest information of our being no longer in want of a ship, we directed the commander to call there in his way and leave with them a letter of advice

8 We have further the satisfaction of informing you that our apprehensions for the safety of the *Lord Mansfield* are removed as she was met by the *Success* galley, a country ship, the 20th of October, off Fort Victoria in her way to Bombay But of the *Admiral Pocock*, we have yet no certain account All we hear further of her is that she was left by a proe the beginning of August endeavoring to get round the island of Puto Laut near Borneo in

order to make her passage to Batavia but that she was not arrived at the latter place the 13th of October from which it was apprehended she had been obliged to bear away for China.

9 The supply of treasure for China having been compleated as advised in our latter letter by the *Devonshire* the *Argos* dispatches were immediately prepared and delivered to Capt. Affleck and as she had so large a property on board on account of the Company and was to proceed by a passage not yet perfectly known we determined for the greater security of the treasure that one of our pilot vessels should be fitted out to accompany her through the islands or even unto China if found necessary and the *Cuddalore* schooner was accordingly dispatched on this service.

10 We are sorry here to advise your honours of the loss of the *Nancy* ketch belonging to the Fort Marlbro establishment which happened the begining of September last in the streights of Mallaca by the villainy of the carpenter and gunner as you may be more fully acquainted on reference to our Consultation of the 21th December on which are recorded the informations thereon of the second mate and the captain of a country vessell who you will find Mr Robert Landsay used all his endeavors to save her and we have only to add that we have not as yet heard any thing either of the commander or of any thing either of the accomplices and that we shall take care to demand from Mr Landsay the value of the small quantity of opium and any other articles which he saved out of her

11 The rice and opium for Fort Marlbro having been laden on the *Diligent* snow she was accordingly dispatched thither the 26th of November but the necessary and unavoidable services on which the *Leopard* was employed down the River and the repairs which on her return the Master Attendant found it requisite to give her leading us to apprehend she could not arrive at Fort St George in time to meet the *Admiral* Batson we determined to forward by the *Cacernarton* the remainder of the opium then in the ware house together with the whole of the packing stuff indented for and shortly after receiving a further dispatch of fifty chests of opium from Patna we directed the same to be laden on the *Leopard* snow with the remaining articles of the indent with which she will accordingly proceed now in a few days

12 We observe the strong terms in which in your letter of the 16th May you repeat your recommendation for our affording every possible assistance to this settlement and you may rest assured that the same shall be always a particular object of our attention By the foregoing you will observe that we have fully complied with their last indent sent us in every other article and in the essential one of opium we shall exceed it by sixty eight chests the quantity required being only one hundred and fifty and our supplies two hundred and eighteen chests With regard to money the very large amount of our military expence and other demand have not left it in our power to supply them herein but on receipt of their last application on this subject in the month of April we wrote to the principal officers of Fort St George representing our situation and requesting they would if possible assist them We must remark that in their answer they did not specify the want of any cloth

which you mention as one of the articles we had neglected to supply them with

13 The further quantity of salt petre for Bombay ordered on board the *Calcutta* was decreased for the reasons mentioned in Consultation the 17th January, to ten thousand maunds, but the whole amount of our supplies of this article do now almost double the quantity at first promised them of thirty thousand maunds, so that they will have considerable remains on their hands for the early dispatch of their tonnage of the ensuing season, and this method of keeping them supplied in advance, we shall continue in future to observe as far as possible with a view of saving the heavy expence of demorage, which you have been subjected to from the late arrival of the saltpetre with them. We have now also supplied that Presidency with some what more than the five laaks of rupees which we advised you we had permitted to draw for

14 We have given our final orders to the Chief and Council at Chittagong for the construction of the new factory in that province agreeable to the plan mentioned in our last address and for the particulars, we beg leave to refer you to our Consultation of the 24th of December when they were determined on, observing here only, that we have on the present, considerably contracted the plan originally proposed

15 The gentlemen at Burdwan have also agreeably to former orders transmitted us plans for houses for the chief and other members of the factory which from the moderate expence they have represented will attend the execution, we have approved of with some additions for accommodation of the seapoys stationed with them and to render the factory defensively against any flying parties of cavalry, such a plan of the whole together with a sketch of the country round about, we have directed them to transmit us for our further consideration

16 In our additional letter by the *Devonshire* we advised you that on Mr Vansittart's departure, Mr Spencer had taken charge of the Government till your directions by the *Kent* or *Lapwing* should arrive, which last having imported, he was acquainted with your destination respecting him, but as the rest of the members judged his continuance here requisite for the management of the Company's affairs till Lord Clive's arrival, they addressed him a letter containing a request for that purpose in which he has acquiesced

17 Mr Vansittart before his departure delivered into us a calculate account of the commission due to him on the Company's lands, requesting at same time that whatever on the adjustment of your accounts appear further due to him might be paid to his attornies, together with the commission on such part of the outstanding ballances for three years past as may be further recovered, and the amount demanded being CRs 1,05,192, was accordingly paid him out of the treasury. We observe and shall attend to your directions now received, that this additional emolument, is not to be continued to Lord Clive or any other future President and Governor

18 On the receipt of your letters of the 16th May and 1st June we immediately communicated to Brigadier General Carnac your resolutions and orders in his favor and also gave directions for notifying to the army in the manner you directed the thanks of the Company for their services in the campaign under Major Adams

19 We also gave some other necessary directions for information of which beg leave to refer you to our Consultation of the 25th ultimo But with regard to the reduction of the *batta*<sup>1</sup> to the army we have thought it proper and necessary on account of their being engaged in actual service of so much consequence to defer it for the present at least till the arrival of Lord Clive and the other members with the expected field officers, hoping by the example and support of the latter whom we conclude came out acquainted with your orders to meet with less difficulty therein. We shall however carry them into execution ourselves, if the gentlemen should not soon arrive.

20 We some time ago permitted Mr George Godefridus De La Garde to proceed round to Bombay in order to see some of his near relations and settle some family concerns on his return he shall be made acquainted with the contents of the 50th paragraph of your last letter

21 Your complaints of remissness in duty of your junior servants continued in your letter of the 17th December 1762 and the directions you were pleased to give in consequence were duly communicated to them and in answer to the 49th paragraph of your letter now before us we must do them the justice to assure your honours that we have not since had any cause for being dissatisfied with them on that account.

22 At our Consultation of the 20th of December Mr Hastings delivered in a letter returning your honours thanks for the benefits he had reaped in your service and desiring to resign the same and he accordingly took his passage for Europe on board his Majesty's ship *Medway*. To fill the vacancy occasioned by this resignation we called Mr George Gray the next servant on your list from his residency at Maulda and you will observe that according to the number you have now directed your Council to consist of he will when Lord Clive with the other expected gentlemen arrive exactly compleat the same

23 We further appointed Mr Playdell Export Ware House Keeper in the room of Mr Hastings Mr Richard Barwell<sup>2</sup> Resident at Maulda in the room of Mr Gray and Mr Ruhil Witta his Head Assistant to succeed Mr Barwell in the office of Sub Accountant

other respect to our entire satisfaction, and we cannot in justice but recommend him again here as a servant very particularly deserving your notice and favour

26 On the appointment of Mr Graham, a member of the settlement at Benaris, Mr William Majendie, the Assistant Secretary, was nominated to succeed him as Secretary and has since entered upon and from his diligence which we have already mentioned to you we are persuaded also of his giving you and us entire satisfaction in the discharge thereof

27 Mr Witts will we hope exert himself in like manner as Mr Barwell and we need only further assure your honours that it shall in future be a particular object of our attention that your general and other books are regularly and properly kept up and transmitted We observe your directions in regard to the Military Pay Masters and Commissary Generals in particular, on account of the great part of your expences which from the troubles we have been involved in must be therein stated, those of the first office were transmitted you to November 1763 by the *Pigot* and a sett of the Commissary General's ending April 1763 by the *Devonshire* We now send you further a duplicate copy of these last together with the continuation promised to April 1764

28 Mr Anselm Beaumont agreeably to the intention intimated in our last has also resigned your service, and proceeded to Europe on the *Medway* Mr Stanlake Batson took passage on the *Devonshire*

29 On the appointment of Mr Barwell to the Residency of Maulda, we judged it necessary on account of the extent of your business at that factory, as likewise that you might have some person on the spot to take charge in case of any accident to that gentleman that he should have an assistant stationed with him, and Mr William Barton was accordingly appointed

30 We have received representations both from Major Champion and Major Stibbert on the occasion of your appointment of Sir Robert Fletcher to a majority on this establishment, by which they think themselves aggrieved, in our letter by the *Boscawen*, we strongly recommended the former to your honours and must now do the same justice to the merit of Major Stibbert, referring you for the rest to his address to you on the occasion now transmitted

31 On the very particular recommendation of General Carnac and Commodore Tinker, we granted captain's commissions to Capt Frederick Thomas Smith and Lieut David Scott of his Majesty's marines, as we are willing however to avoid as much as possible giving any cause for umbrage to your officers from such appointments, we have declined complying with those which were made us by Lieuts Wakely and Humphreys of the 96th Regiment For your information of the casualties and military promotions which have occurred since our last, we refer you to a list in the packet agreeably to the advice given you in our last, of the method we should in future observe for this purpose

32 But we are here to acquaint you with the resignation of Capt James Forster of the battalion of Captain Lieut Adolph Wilmers of the artillery who takes passage on this ship We have granted them both certificates of their good behaviour in your service, but we must here do the former the further justice of mentioning him as an officer who in every station and on all occasions has particularly distinguished himself And the only cause of his now resign-

ing is the continued ill state of health under which he has laboured for these four years past.

33 In our address from the other Department you are advised of our having ordered a detachment into the Midnapore province in consequence of motions making by the Marattas. And we are here to inform you that at our Consultation of the 31st of December General Carnac delivered in dissent from our sentiments and orders that the Major on this service should in any respect act under the directions of the Resident in that province founding it on the circumstances of the party's being sent for the defence of the province and not for forwarding the collections and that the officer in command should therefore be under as little controul as possible we confirmed our order in consequence of your repeated commands for the subordination of the offices to the civil authority but for the prevention of any further room for the least doubt we must request you will be more explicit on this particular subject which now appears to us still more requisite on account of the appointment of so many officers of superior rank on this establishment since it has already been urged that field officers should be subordinate to and under the direction of the President and Council only

34 Mr James Robertson one of the cadets, who came out on the *Success* preferred a very heavy complaint to us of his ill treatment during the passage from the Commander Captain Henry Gardiner which it appearing he could not acquit himself of after giving him every opportunity he could desire for that end we determined to mention to your honours as requiring your particular notice to prevent the like behavior in others. The complaint itself and proceedings in consequence you will find recorded in our Consultation of the 26th November and 6th and 10th December to which we beg leave to refer you for your more full information on the subject. Capt. Gardiner afterwards delivered us a letter requesting our permission to return to Europe by any opportunity that might offer with which we complied

35 Besides the principal and interest of the two bonds lost at the capture of Calcutta which in our last general address we advised your honours to have paid off in consequence of your orders we have discharged the amounts due on two others in the names of Dorothy Bellamy and Underam Capparee and have granted an interest note for what became due on the particular one mentioned in your letter in the names of Messrs Manningham and Frankland acc<sup>t</sup> George and Mary Tipping observing conformably to your directions to be fully satisfied in each case that the claimant was the legal representative and to take from him the proper security and indemnification

V Mr Campbell has delivered in a letter to us in consequence of the accounts which we required for exemplifying the regulations proposed by him in order to remedy the defects of the mint and we have the same now under our consideration. He has also delivered in an indent of some articles he is in want of for the same purpose which is accordingly enclosed in the packet

V We have received from Commander Tinker a considerable part of the ordnance articles belonging to the ships *Medway* and *Lark* for which we granted him the proper certificates and copies of them are now transmitted you.

38 The marines of the former, not having arrived from camp in time to proceed on her to Fort St George, were embarked on board the *Caernarvon*

39 The remaining men of the 84th Regiment were accommodated as advised in our last by Commodore Tinker, except a few whom Capt Mangin was obliged to leave behind from sickness These with Lieut Grant left in command of them and the detachment of the 96th Regiment consisting of five officers and forty five men are now accommodated on the *Vansittart*, a list of them is transmitted as usual in the packet

40 On the *Calcutta* were sent home a further number of the French men who have served in our military agreeably to the resolutions advised in our letter by the *Devonshire* and of whom a part was then returned, and the papers relating to their embarkation were forwarded in that ship's packet to Bombay to be from thence transmitted to you with her general dispatches for Europe

41 The goods and merchandize we have consigned to your honours by this ship amount to current rupees 9,49,700 Fifteen hundred bags of saltpetre and one hundred and twenty bales of piece goods, in part thereof have been shipped in consequence of offers made us by Capt Lewin as surplus tonnage at half freight, for which we therefore transmit you a seperate bill of lading

42 We have further laden on her the usual supplies for your island of St Helena amounting to current rupees 1,248-5 and have granted on the usual terms the following setts of bills by her in part of the remaining five laaks to be drawn this season *vizt* at 365 days amounting to C R 3,65,018-2-6 or £ St 42,585-7-10



<i>Indebted to</i>	<i>£ St</i>	<i>Value received of</i>	<i>Curr't Rs</i>
Joseph Vere Sir Richard Clavin and Mr Hallifax	1750-0-0	The Honble John Spencer Esqr	15,000-0-0
Andrew Chaites and William Knox	3660-11-8	The Cooke acct ye estate of Willm Ornstone	31,376-7-3
George Chaites acct of Anslm Beaumont	5000-0-0	Richd Barwell acct Anselm Beaumont	42,857-2-3
Richard Howard Richard Evans and The Parry Partner acct of John Bladen Tinker	3150-0-0 2,333-6-8	Richard Barwell account John Bladen Tinker John Grant acct ballances of his Majesty's 84th Regiment	27,000-0-0
Richard Barwell	500-0-0	Himself or order	20,000-0-0
Madame Parry and King	304-8-11	James Lister	4,285-11-6
Robert Baker Baldwin Nassau Senior and Mr Richard Senior	132-13-10	Leycester and Barwell account Ascanius William Senior	2,609-9-0
The Right Honble Lord Mount Charles, the Rev George Knox Lieut. John Knox and Mr Foster	991-13-4	Ralph Leycester account the estate of Major Randfurie Knox	1137-5-9
Ralph Leycester and George Leycester Senior	233-6-8	Ralph Leycester	8,500-0-0
Joseph Hickley	100-0-0	Do acct Fracs, Charlton	2,000-0-0
John Zephania Howell	933-6-8	Charles Stafford Playdell	857-2-3
The Reverend Mr Henry Lushington and Roger Atham	1,458-6-8	Ralph Leycester acct. the estate of Henry Lushington	8,000-0-0
Miss Fanny Russell	50-0-0	Do acct Fracs, Russell	12,500-0-0
William Dawnes	100-0-0	Derby Grady	428-9-3
Richard Wills	300-0-0	Himself	857-2-9
Henry H Isden	340-17-6	Ensn. Henry Grant	2,571-6-9
Lieut John Grant	2,333-6-8	Himself	2,921-13-3
Daniel Callaghan	116-13-4	Capt. Cuthbert Thornhill	20,000-0-0
			1,000-0-0

Lieut Whaley	583- 6- 8	Lieut Whaley	5,000- 0- 0
Edward Humphreys	676-13- 4	Himself	5,800- 0- 0
Captn John Croston	504- 0- 0	Himself	4,320- 0- 0
Russell Skinner and John Grant	2,916-13- 4	Russell Skinner and John Grant acct ye este of Major Adams	25,000- 0- 0
Captain Maurice Wemyss	586-14- 0	Ralph Leycester acct Captm Maurice Wemyss	5,028-13- 6
Capt Pigou or order for acct the owners of the ship <i>British King</i>	378-15-10	Mr John Gould	3,246-13- 0
Capt Peter Pigou	220-10- 0	Ditto	1,890- 0- 0
The Reverend Mr Henry Lushington and Roger Altham	1,166-13- 4	Ralph Leycester acct ye estate of Henry Lushington	10,000- 0- 0
Samuel Swinton, John Swinton Junr and Robert Hepburn	3,000- 0- 0	Capt Archibald Swinton	25,714- 4- 9
Stephen Law	230- 0- 0	Robert Gregory acct John Cartier	1,971- 7- 0
Lieut James Nevel	350- 0- 0	Himself	3,000- 0- 0
James Petrie	345-14- 0	Ths Cooke acct Js Petrie	2,963- 2- 9
George Barne	120- 0- 0	Do acct Miles Barne	1,028- 9- 0
The Right Hon'ble Lord Mount Charles, The Reverend Geo Knox, Lieut John Knox and Mr Forster	1,050- 0- 0	Ralph Leycester acct the estate of Major Rundfurlie Knox	9,000- 0- 0
Diedrick Adolph Wilmers	1,681- 2- 1	Himself	14,409-14- 3
John Guutton	233- 6- 8	Thomas Woodward acct Joseph Hare	2,000- 0- 0
Captn John Green	525- 0- 0	Ths Woodward acct Captain John Green	4,500- 0- 0
George Clive and [Jnr] Burgess	1,250- 0- 0	James Amyart	10,714- 4- 6
Merrick Burrell	100- 0- 0	Thomas Woodward acct John Reed	857- 2- 3
Griffith Williams	100- 0- 0	Do account Do	857- 2- 3
Leonard Ellington	100- 0- 0	Do account Ditto	857- 2- 3
William Sutherland	110- 0- 0	Himself	942-13- 6
Danial Gallopine	250- 0- 0	Peter Gallopine	2,142-13- 6

<i>In favour of for</i>	<i>£ St</i>	<i>Value received of in</i>	<i>Curr Rs</i>
James Watts	200-0-0	William Majendie acct. Lieut James Watts	1714-4-6
Charles Barron	200-0-0	Ralph Leycester acct. John Robinson	1714-4-6
Himself	20-0-0	Captain Muscander Johnstone	6514-4-6
James Sheen	175-0-0	John Bathoe account James Sheen	1500-0-0
John Purling	233-6-8	Major Hector Munro	2000-0-0
Mrs M. Scott and Pringle	750-0-0	Robert Gregory	6428-9-0

At 20 days amounting to current rupees 46538-8-3

or £ St.

5429-9-11

<i>In favour of for</i>	<i>£ St</i>	<i>Value received of in</i>	<i>Curr Rs</i>
Thomas Rous	116-13-4	Alexander Campbell	1000-0-0
Warren Hastings	500-0-0	Himself	4285-11-6
Robert Halsey Baldick Nassau Senior and Mrs Rachel Senior	500-0-0	Lycester and Barwell account Ascanius William Senior	4285-11-6
Mrs Ann Lane and Mr Henry Hastings	500-0-0	Samuel Middleton	4285-11-6
Daniel Branstetter	200-0-0	Richard Barwell account John Knott	1714-4-6
Mrs Elizabeth Jackson	139-16-11	Mr Barton acct. Lieut. Charles Clifton	1198-11-0
James Hallet	200-0-0	William Lambart	1714-4-6
Madame Parry and King	500-0-0	James Lister	4285-11-6
Robert Carr	400-0-0	James Ashburner	3428-9-0
Thomas Horne	129-7-2	William Bolts	1108-12-6
John Muscander	121-4-2	Ditto	1038-15-0
William Barwell	100-0-0	James Kerghley	857-2-3
Wm and Gen. Johnstone	400-0-0	Thomas Sheels	3428-9-0
Samuel Rugh	500-0-0	Fitz Owen Jones	4285-11-6

Danial Gallopine, Ann and Hannah Gallopine	100- 0- 0	Peter Gallopine account Thomas Jepson	857- 2- 3
Ann and Hannah Gallopine	50- 0- 0	Peter Gallopine	428- 9- 0
Alexander McKenzie	63- 0- 0	Captn Hugh Grant	540- 0- 0
Himself	116-13- 4	Ditto Ditto	1,000- 0- 0
Himself	50- 0- 0	William Majendie	428- 9- 0
Himself	142-15- 0	Ditto	1,223- 9- 0
Mrs Ann Ironside	100- 0- 0	Gilbert Ironside	857- 2- 3
Himself or order	500- 0- 0	Capt Mussenden Johnstone	4,285-11- 6

Fort William,  
6th February 1765  
[Original per *Vansittart*  
Dup per *Bute*]

We are  
Hon'ble Sirs,  
With the greatest respect,  
Your most faithfull and obedient humble servants

## LETTER DATED 8 FEBRUARY 1765

*Report the death of Mir Jafar—nomination of Najmud Daulah as Naxab proposed—perpetual assignment of 5 lakhs to the Company by the Naxab for defence of the province*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

[1] We have advised you in the letter already addressed by this ship of the ill state of the Nabob's health and are sorry now to be obliged to add the certain information received this morning from the Resident at the Durbar of his demise about noon the 5th instant

2. It is at present impossible for us to determine so hastily on the measures proper to be taken on so important an occasion but as you will be anxious to know the plan we are intending to pursue we shall here just inform you of what immediately occurs to us observing at the same time that considering the few members of the Board now at the Presidency we have called Mr Johnstone from Burdwan being so near at hand to assist us in our deliberations

3 The Nabob has left three children behind him the eldest about sixteen year old we have not a very favorable opinion of this young man's abilities or character but as the removal of the succession out of the family of the late Nabob might at this critical juncture of affairs throw the country into confusion we propose to nominate him thereto, giving him at same time fully to understand that he receives and must hold the government by the influence and authority of the Company The younger children we must observe are as unequal to any actual charge from their minority as the other appears to be from his incapacity In order therefore to supply this want of a capable person in the family we shall take every precaution that proper officers are appointed for the management of the affairs of the government



Mir Jafar and his son Miran



6 We have also given the necessary direction to the subordinate factories on this event and we have the pleasure to inform you that we do not as yet foresee that any troubles are likely to ensue from it. We shall immediately enter into the minutest discussion of all the circumstances attending this change and then form such resolutions as may appear to us best calculated for the Company's interests and the good of the country in general. And when we have so done shall appoint a committee of the Board to proceed to the city in order to set the success on on the *main end* and see the resolutions effectually carried into execution.

We are with the greatest respect  
Honorable Sirs,

Your most faithful and obedient  
humble servants,

Fort William,  
the 8th February 1765  
[Per Vansittart]

J. Spencer / C. S. Plaxdell / Ralph  
Leverett / John Burdett

18

## LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1765

*Execution of Mir Qasim and surrender of deserters as a condition for peace with Shujaud-Daulah—fall of Chunarghar and Allahabad and retreat of Shujaud-Daulah—appreciation of Sir Robert Fletcher's measures against the enemy—arrangements for government of Bengal during minority of Najmud-Daulah—execution of fresh treaty with Najmud-Daulah—agreement with Balwant Singh for payment of revenues of his zemindari to the Company*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 We now continue by the ship *Bute* a detail of the few occurrences under this Department since our last addresses by the *Vansittart* of the 6th and 8th ultimo

2 Immediately after her dispatch we met as you were advised to consider on the situation of our affairs with the King and Shuja Dowla, and the measures proper to be taken for bringing the war to as speedy a period as possible, and as our preliminary demand of the surrender of Meer Cossim, Sombre and the deserters had appeared to be the principal obstacle, Shuja Dowla urging always that it was inconsistent with his honour to give up people who had fled to him for protection, it was agreed we should recede from that part of it which respected Cossim and Sombre provided he would himself cause to be executed the punishment we think due for their crimes by putting them to death in a publick manner as an act of justice, and so that we could be certified thereof and have no doubt that they were really the persons executed,



of his disposition to which we had had some intimation. With regard to the deserters we were of opinion it was proper still to insist on their being delivered into our own hands as there was not the same reason for his objecting to this part and in order that an example might be made to the army of their scandalous behaviour. It was not however our intention in consequence to relinquish the *sunnuds* before obtained for the *zemindarry* of Bulwant Sing's country or yield the territory again to Shuja Dowla but if terms could have been received through the King for a peace in which the aforesaid article should be agreed to and the interest of His Majesty provided for to his satisfaction that he might not remain a burden to the Company without the absolute expulsion of Shuja Dowla from all his dominions as was at first proposed it appeared to us that it would be advisable to encourage such an overture.

3 Major Fletcher agreeably to the advice in his letter of the 21st of January of which a copy was transmitted you having proceeded with his detachment to Fivabad and sent Major Sibbert with the remainder of the army to Chinargur we have the pleasure to acquaint you that both places after a very trifling opposition surrendered<sup>d</sup> at discretion on the 8th ultimo. Shuja Dowla continued his precipitate retreat towards Lucknow the capital of the province of Oud and as by all our advices his affairs appear to be in the utmost confusion and particularly his people entirely disaffected towards him and he has notwithstanding made no further overtures for an accommodation we have now determined to pursue immediately the advantages we have gained over him and drive him entirely out of his country putting the King in possession agreeably to our former resolution. Nidjuff Cawn the Chief mentioned in the 2nd paragraph of our last address has since joined our army with about 4000 horse.

4 No proper opportunity has yet offered to obtain from His Majesty the agreement we mentioned to you in our last for defraying the expenses of the army since he joined it owing to the King's not being with the part of the army under Major Fletcher and with which Mr Marriott continued till lately but we doubt not of his ready acquiescence herein.

5 In the supplement to our last letter we mentioned to you that we thought Sir Robert Fletcher had hazarded rather too much in the movement he made after receiving the command of the army. It is with the greatest satisfaction we have now to observe to you that the vigorous measures he put out have instead of any bad consequences been attended with the most happy issue by reducing the enemy to the greatest distress and we therefore beg leave to recommend him to your particular notice and favour.

6 You were advised in our last letter by the *Lan Sittart* of the decease of the Nalib Meer Jaffer of what then occurred to us on the occasion as to the plan proper to be pursued and that we should immediately enter into the maturest discussions of all the circumstances attending the change of government and from such resolutions as might appear to us best-calculated for the Company's interest and the good of the country in general.

7 We accordingly began to meet for this purpose in consultation the

12th ultimo when the point of succession being first taken into consultation, it was agreed that it should continue in the family of Meer Jaffier, and in the person of his surviving eldest son Najem-o-Dowla, Mr Burdett only dissenting to this latter part in favour of his grand son, the son of Miran <sup>2</sup>

8 Having afterwards considered the arrangements and regulations necessary to be made in the Government,<sup>3</sup> it was resolved on account of Najem-o-Dowla's minority and his entire ignorance in the affairs of Government, having been never in the least engaged therein till he went up to the city about two months before, that the whole charge should not rest upon him nor upon Nundcomar in whom he had expressed an inclination of reposing his entire confidence Since then the whole trust appeared too great to be placed in one man, and that from former circumstances in Nundcomar's conduct we had much reason to distrust him it was thought proper that another person should be appointed at the Board's recommendation in the capacity of *Naib-Subah*, who should have immediately under the Nabob the chief management of all affairs, and no one at the same time appearing so fit for this trust as Mahomed Roza Cawn, the *Naib* of Dacca, he was accordingly nominated for it Under this *Naib-Subah* it was agreed that the business of the collection of the revenues should be divided into two or more branches as might afterwards appear proper, and the appointment or dismissal of the *mutseddies* of those branches and the allotment of their several districts be with our approbation, and that we should also be at liberty to point out and object when improper persons were employed under them

9 With regard to the monthly assignment of five laaks of rupees granted by Meer Jaffier to assist in defraying the expences of our army, and which we proposed getting converted into a further fixed resource for that purpose, we agreed that Najem-o-Dowla should for the present engage to continue it to the Company while the troubles obliged us to keep the army in ye field leaving the matter to be further and finally determined on when peace should be restored

10 These points with a confirmation of the necessary articles of the last treaty with Meer Jaffier, his son was to accede to, previous to his being established by us in the *subadaree* A treaty was accordingly prepared conformable thereto, and a deputation

Cons 20 Feby appointed with the proper instructions to get our resolutions carried into execution and we have the pleasure to acquaint you that after proper pains and attention taken to give Najem-o-Dowla the clearest

Cons 28 Do and plainest notion of the several articles and of the sincerity of our intentions to support him on those conditions faithfully and steadily, he agreed to accept the treaty in the form it was offered and accordingly executed it on his part in the presence of the principal men of the Durbar <sup>4</sup> He has been since publickly seated on the *musnud* by our deputies and proclaimed everywhere in proper form, and we learn from those gentlemen that he seems perfectly happy with what has been done for him and fully content to receive the government only from the Company and to rest himself entirely upon our advice and protection

11 The effecting the execution of your orders for obtaining the reversion

of Lord Clive's *jaghire* to the Company is a principal point in the instructions to the deputation this appearing the most favourable opportunity that could have offered for that purpose. For your information on the other points we refer you to our Consultation of the 14th ultimo where they are entered at full. A copy of the treaty is transmitted in the packet to which we also beg leave to refer you.

12. Mr Gray having arrived at Calcutta took his seat at the Board just after the other members had formed their resolutions, and dissented from the first part of them<sup>a</sup> but as his arguments produced no alterations in their sentiments we have only to refer you to the minutes on both sides.

13. The gentlemen of Fort St. George have advised us in an answer to the application mentioned in our last for a reinforcement of troops that they purpose sending us about two hundred men, which  
 Cons. 25 Feby is all they can possibly spare us and we have already received in part about fifty enlisted for this establishment by Lieutenant John Seagrave of His Majesty's 79th Regiment.

14. We are also advised from them of the arrival there of Mr Law<sup>a</sup> with four ships under his command and the necessary powers which he produced to them for receiving over the possessions to be restored to the French in India by virtue of the treaty of peace. He has since left them to proceed to Tranquebar in order to receive back Karikal with its ancient districts after which they learn he purposes proceeding to Pondicherry and having sent persons to Mulsipatam Yanam and Mahé to come to Bengal. We received from them at same time a copy of your letter of the 23rd of March last to the different Presidencies containing your more particular instructions for carrying into execution the articles of the treaty which respects your affairs.

15. By all the information we could get the French at the beginning of the year 1799 possessed factories in these provinces at Chandernagore Patna, Solahad Dacca and Jugdia and you were advised in our address by the *Ostender* that we had in consequence procured from the Nabob the necessary orders for their restitution and shall put the commissaries in possession of such as they proved their title to, agreeably to the treaty to which we shall conform accordingly on the arrival of Mr Law.

16. But in answer to your orders on the subject of the 22nd article we are to inform you that we had before made a strict but entirely ineffectual search for any papers which might have fallen into our hands in particular we must inform you that we know nothing of the seizure of their *plumunds* at M<sup>a</sup>rtchedul if any of their papers should hereafter appear they shall be duly delivered.

17. For the present we have only to add further on this subject that you may place an entire reliance upon our attention to your directions to this we must depend upon us in future harmony with this nation here taking care at the same time to prevent their obtaining any undue influence in the country.

18. The Marattas having retired to Cuttack and manifested no further intention of disturbing us we have eased you of the expense of the detachment

advised in our last to have been sent into the Midnapoor province in consequence of their motions this way, and recalled it to Calcutta

19 We have received a letter from Mr Van Sittart at Fort St George referring to one which he was informed had, after his departure been delivered in by General Carnac in which this gentleman had mentioned him with the same want of candour,<sup>7</sup> he had shewn on many former occasions, and informing us that he hoped to find a copy of the same with you, before whom he should make the truth appear and in the mean time that the consideration of the General's not having produced the letter while he was present would prevent us or any others from being prejudiced by it This letter of the General's with the papers therein mentioned are recorded on our Consultations of the 27th December and 31st January, to which we refer you

Fort William,  
the 11th March 1765

We are with respect Hon'ble Sirs,  
Your faithful and obedient  
humble servants,  
J Spencer / George Gray / J Burdett

### *Postscript*

1 Since writing the foregoing, we have received letters from Mr Marriott<sup>8</sup> at Benaris, advising of Bulwant Sing's having returned, and enclosing copies of the agreements entered into with him for the revenues of his zemindarry to be paid the Company, of which for your particular information others are transmitted in the packet, and we shall immediately meet to consider the points therein referred for our determination We have also received a letter from General Carnac on the same subject and advising further that the coming in of Bulwant Sing rendering a force unnecessary in the parts near Churnargur, he had left only a battalion to garrison the fort and cross the rest of the detachment with Major Stibbert over the Ganges, that they might proceed on to Illhabad from whence he should march to reduce Lucknow and such other parts of Shuja Dowla's dominions as had not yet submitted This you will observe corresponds with our resolution mentioned in the 3rd paragraph

2 We have also received a letter from the gentlemen of the deputation advising that the Nabob has readily acquiesced in our application for procuring the reverse of Lord Clive's jaghirc,<sup>9</sup> and promised to give them immediately a proper grant confirming the same

Fort William,  
the 11th March 1765  
[Per Butc]

We are with the most respect  
Hon'ble Sirs  
Your most obedient faithful  
J Spencer  
J Burdett

## LETTER DATED 11 MARCH 1765

*Request for European recruits for Bengal—account of Burdwan revenues—military appointments—Major Munro to be commended to His Majesty's favour*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs,

1 In our last address by the *Vansittart* under date the 6th ultimo you were advised of the safe arrival of the ship *Bute* from her Batavia voyage and that she was preparing to proceed to you as our last ship agreeably to her destination advised by the *Devonshire*. She is now accordingly dispatched to you with a full cargo as per invoices and bills of lading transmitted in the packet the former amounting to [      ].

2 Fifteen hundred bags of her saltpetre have been shipped as surplus tonnage on the charter party terms of half freight of which  
 Conn. 11 Feby a separate invoice and bill of lading is therefore sent

3 We have also laden on her the usual supplies for the island of St. Helena amounting as per invoice and bill of lading enclosed to the Governor and Council to CRs. [      ].

4 Agreeably to the advice in our letter of the 26th November the few remaining men of the 84th and the detachment of the 96th Regiments were returned to Europe on the *Vansittart* and Major Munro with the detachment of the 89th under his command now proceeds on this ship.

5 When we directed Captain Lewin to receive on board those passengers we referred him to you for payment of the whole expence agreeably to your commands in the 21st paragraph of your letter of the  
 Conn. 4 Februry 31st March 1763

He thereupon addressed us representing that his instructions laid him under the necessity of requesting the same might be paid him here agreeably to charter party and as all your said agreements positively specify that the sum of £10 to the owners shall be paid in India for every charter party passenger embarked for Europe we directed the amount due on that footing to be accordingly paid him out of our

treasury but referred him as before for what was due to himself for entertaining the officers at his table. We have done in like manner with respect to the detachment embarked on board the *Bute*.

6 Captain Lewin in his said letter also requested we would put on board a quantity of strong liquor for the use of the private men or else allow him to

provide a supply at the Company's expence. An application of the like nature has been also since made by Captain Mantland with this further addition that we would make him an allowance of money for them. But as we had not received such from any of the commanders who carried home us last season and we had moreover no directions from you on this subject we have referred them to be answered by yourselves.

7 The *Lord Anson* imported with us the 1st instant but we are extremely sorry to remark to you that the length of her voyage has proved fatal to most of her recruits from the scurvey and other distempers which raged among them, no less than 284 having dyed before her arrival in the River. We immediately ordered all the relief in our power from fresh provisions &c<sup>a</sup> to be sent down the River to the survivors, and we hope most of them will now recover

8 We yet hear nothing of the *Prince of Wales* from which we cannot but conclude that the recruits intended by her have too severely experienced the same calamity and as therefore our engagements with the new Nabob (as you are advised from the other Department) leave the entire defence of the provinces upon us<sup>1</sup> and the troops we have here already must unavoidably be much reduced in the field by the continuance of the war, we cannot but press your honors for a further recruit as soon as possible and we must repeat as a further argument for your compliance, the disproportion of our European force to the number of seapoys we are therefore obliged to entertain, the dangerous consequence of which we have so much experienced in their frequent mutinies at the most critical junctures. At the same time you will immediately perceive the necessity of their departure (from the instances before mentioned) at a more early season and at the same time we must also repeat our earnest application for a proper supply of small arms

9 The *Leopard's* cargo having been compleated, she received her dispatches for Fort Marlbro the 11th ultimo and we at same time came to the resolution of supplying that Presidency annually with the quantity of 200 chests of opium unless they should advise otherwise

10 We are advised from Fort St George of the safe arrival there of the *Caernarvon* on the 26th of January

11 We have determined nothing yet in respect to the disposal of the *Lapwing* till we hear from those gentlemen whether or not they have any material service on which to employ her for your benefit. She is no longer under the same commander, Capt Griffin having quitted her with our permission in order to proceed to Fort St George where his private business called him, and we thereupon appointed Mr Alexander Wilson, the Chief Officer, well recommended by Capt Griffin, to the command of her. We at the same time called upon Capt Griffin for his account of the bullion put on board the vessell which on his delivering in the whole appeared expended in necessaries for her use at the places where she touched, and wages to different persons discharged here and a ballance due to Capt Griffin of £43-8-4½. The same was accordingly reimbursed him

12 Captn Maitland has also delivered in to us his account current on his Batavia voyage, the ballance whereof being in your favor—rix dollars 1,692-37 or AR 2,708-5-4, he was accordingly directed to pay into the treasury, besides the said sum, he advanced to Mr Francis Jourdan at Batavia who was late one of the Council at Manilla, 2,600 rix dollars to enable him to pay off the money which Mr Jourdan himself informed us was taken up to pay the King's troops while there

13 Captain Roch of the *Fort William* delivered in a letter to us representing from the copies of letters accompanying it which he transmitted you from those places, the necessity of his putting in at the island of La Cruz

and the Cape of Good Hope and supplying his recruits with fresh provisions and other refreshments and requesting we would reimburse him his expence on those accounts. For the particulars we refer you to his letter and our Consultation of the 7th instant on which it is recorded. We at the same time paid him the ballance of freight agreed to be discharged in India the whole amounting to £S 2,944-0-6

14 Some accounts of the Burdwan revenues received just after the *Lansittart's* dispatch were ordered to be transmitted in the packet to your Secretary. We have since received a letter from the gentlemen there advising us that the Rajah had applied to them for permission to levy from the raita [*ro/rots*] a *salamy* of *adda mha* or half a month on account of the birth of a son as had been usual on such occasions. This application having been considered it was not thought proper to comply therewith but agreed however that the ballances of former years which had been collected in the course of the present should be given up in part compensation for the salary and that as much more should be advanced him out of the treasury of the said province as would compleat to him on occasion the sum of one laak of rupees.

15 Taking at the same time into consideration the great deduction that would this season arise in the rents of the province from so many farms purchased at outcry being relinquished and held *caas* and the allowances which it would be found necessary to make for losses by overflowings in the *comer* lands as also the disposal of the lands after the expiration of the outcry terms this year it was agreed on the subject of the first point that the sum of thirty two laaks should be stipulated at for the *malgu ary* of the present year which is the same as it was settled by Mr Sumner. With regard to the disposal of the land the second point considered the most eligible method appeared that of putting them up at outcry as before in separate lots for the terms of 3 years and with the restriction that no European should be permitted to bid.

16 The necessary directions were accordingly given to the Chief and Council observing to them that the stipulation of the present year was not to be esteemed as a precedent but a resolution in respect to it only for the reasons mentioned.

17 These gentlemen have also transmitted us the plans we mentioned in our last to have required of them which answering the object in view of securing the factory from any sudden irruptions of horse  
(on 11 Febr. [sic] without putting the Company to the large expence of a fort we have directed them to carry into execution.

18 We beg leave to refer you for the usual account transmitted in the packet of the decrease and increase of your investment of this season. We have hitherto made the necessary advances to the different subordinates and the *garrisons* for the ensuing seasons and we expect to be able to supply them in such manner that your list will be fully completed. In particular we must mention to you that the part provided at Chittagong has this season so much exceeded the former provision that the gentlemen have applied to us for an advance of two laaks of rupee informing us that they expect with this advance to be able to complete the whole of their list.

19 Mr Joseph French having delivered in a letter to us containing to

make considerable improvements in the silk manufacture and accompanying it with samples of that article wound up under his directions from cucons collected near Calcutta, which appeared to be much superior in the winding to what is generally produced from the same place, we have agreed in order to give his proposal in a fair tryal, and to enable us to judge how far it may be attended with benefit to the Company, to permit him to proceed to Cossimbuzar factory, and invest to the amount of about 20,000 rupees and the gentlemen there have had the necessary directions in consequence

20 With the other papers of the packet is an address to you from General Carnac which he informs us contains his acknowledgements for the hon'ble distinctions you have been pleased to shew him,<sup>2</sup> and explaining and apologizing for the cause of his having for some time declined accepting the service, after his re-appointment

21 The particular objection against complying with Capt Jennings's application for a majority "that we never before had Field Officer in the Corps of Artillery", being now removed by the appointment of Sir Robert Barker to the rank of Colonel and Major Munro, having also warmly requested his promotion in addition to the former recommendations in his favor, we have thought it unnecessary to wait for your answer to our representation on this subject and have accordingly appointed him a Major

22 Captains George Hay of the cavalry and George Whichcott of the battalion have, since our last, resigned your service, and take passage to Europe on this ship, the usual certificates having been granted them of their good behaviours

23 We have appointed Captain John Graham, captain of cavalry, in consequence of Capt Hay's resignation, and Captain Whichcott having last year been permitted to exchange a commission in the King's service for one on this establishment, and being now desirous of resigning the same in favor of Captain McPherson of the Bombay Detachment, who was strongly recommended to us by Major Munro for his good behaviour in the late campaign, we appointed Capt McPherson accordingly, a captain on this establishment on the resignation of the former gentleman with his rank on the Bombay establishment

24 Lieut John Seagrave of His Majesty's 79th Regiment having enlisted a company for this establishment out of the regiment, and His Majesty's marine, we have also granted him a captain's commission

25 Lieut Fredrick Vincent of the same regiment, takes passage on this ship having been permitted by his Commanding Officer when at Batavia, to proceed home by the way of Bengall

26 We have appointed Capt Lewis Du Gloss to whom we had before granted a brevet in the corps of engineers, an additional surveyor on this establishment and Mr Robert Hunter who was late a surgeon at Fort Marlbro', a supernumerary at this Presidency We have appointed Mr Mathew Allen belonging to the 96th Regiment, a supernumerary surgeon to the army

27 We beg leave to recommend to you for an appointment on the list of civil servants, Mr Francis Gladwin, a gentleman who has wrote for some time under the Secretary and well recommended by him for his assiduity

28 Of the Frenchmen ordered on board the *Calcutta* to be transported



home by the way of Bombay some were returned not having arrived below in time for the ship and a list of them is therefore enclosed in the packet that you may recover from her owners the amount paid Captain Thomson for accomodating them at the stipulated rate of £10 per man.

29 These with the other few remaining would have been sent home by this opportunity had there been any possibility of Captain Maitland's accomodating them on board.

30 We have drawn on you by this ship the remainder of the twenty laaks of this season as per register annexed. Besides which we have granted bills to Major Munro for a laak and an half of rupees as follows viz.

Current Rs. 1,00,000	for himself
25,000	for his officers
	and
25,000	for the regiment

and certificates to Capt. Maitland for CRs. 43,200 to Mr Charles Deane Chief Mate of the *Bute* for 3,240 and Mr William Pearson Purser for 8,640

31 Considering the particular services rendered the Company by Major Munro and his officers that it has not been in their power to make any remittances by former conveyances and the difficulties it would subject them to to leave the whole of their property in India and as it has been assisting to us as well as obliging them we hope on duly weighing all circumstances that this addition will neither be inconvenient or disagreeable to you

32 The certificates to Capt. Maitland and his officers and the amount received in part of the principal and profits of their voyage are not included in the ballance of the twenty laaks because not applied for till after the close of the register. We agreed however to grant them on account of the particular clause at the end of your established indulgence and as the whole amount would be so small an addition to the rest though at the same time a very great inconvenience to the concerned if refused it is necessary to remark that besides the drafts granted we received applications for remittances by this ship to a very considerable amount

33 As Major Munro is now proceeding home and we think the Company so much indebted to him for his great services while in the command of the army we cannot conclude without referring you to the particular mention we made of them in our address by the *Devonshire* that you may take the proper notice thereof on his arrival. The recommending him to His Majesty as requested in the paragraph is a point we must particularly repeat and urge as due to his great merit.

#### Supplement

1 The Import Ware House Keeper has this day delivered in the account of the last general sale made the 5th instant amounting to current rupees 599 1/4 remarking at the foot that though the tin remaining in the ware house has been exposed thence no person has offered even the invoice price for it and that the small quantity of copper put up to sale is the reason why this article now sells so much better than at the last outcry. The account is transmitted you in the packet as also an account sale of the damaged goods remaining in the export ware house

2 The Export Ware House Keeper has delivered in a letter complaining of the ill management of the *gomastahs* at the *aurungs* both in respect to the provision of your investment and the leaving large ballances remain uncollected at the close of every season and therefore recommending our sending a covenant servant to the principal ones of Hurriaul and Buddaul which are contiguous to each other and if the business is found to be better conducted under his direction that then the long proposed scheme of placing all the *aurungs* under your servants be carried into execution, and we shall take the same accordingly into consideration immediately after the dispatch

3 Mr Plaisted has also delivered in a letter requesting we would recommend him to you for obtaining the same standing on this establishment as he would have had, had he continued at Bombay from his appointment there in the station of a factor, and that he might also afterwards rise in the service in the usual course, and as he has always manifested great attention and assiduity in whatever branch he has been employed we cannot but readily comply with this his request and hope he will meet with your indulgence therein

4 Capt Lieut Paul Neidrick of the artillery has further addressed us requesting our permission to resign your service with which we have accordingly complied granting him the usual certificates

5 We have also received an application from Captain Roch of the *Fort William* for certificates for the amount of the ballance of freight and disbursements paid him here which we have complied with

6 And Captain Maitland has delivered in the usual protest for not receiving his dispatches this day agreeably to charter party, a copy of which is transmitted in the packet

Fort William,  
the 11th March 1765  
[Original per *Bute*]

We are &ca,  
(Signed) John Spencer / Chas Staffd  
Playdell / John Burdett / George Gray

20

## LETTER DATED 14 MARCH 1765

*End of war with Shujaud-Daulah and treaty with Shah Alam—Shujaud-Daulah's relations with Najbud-Daulah—Bengal to pay 5 lacks per month for its defence—settlement with Najmud-Daulah regarding Clive's jagir—Northern Circars to be secured for the Company to check French designs—measures to check mortality among troops during voyage—appreciation of Major Munro's services*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 I addressed myself to you by the *Vansittart* respecting my own particular situation in your service in consequence of your orders by the *Lapwing* Duplicate thereof accompanys this, so that I have very little to add, having

referred my case to your justice except to remark on the increased disagreeableness of my situation from my being obliged to remain at the request of the gentlemen of Council as noticed in the duplicate. By this I am now shut up for the rains as the season is too far expired to think of going to Bombay till after the rains even if Lord Clive was soon to arrive but of whom we yet hear nothing I am however very happy that your affairs are so likely to be benefited by my stay at so critical a juncture and which might otherwise have been thrown into the utmost confusion.

2. You have in our General Letter from the Publick and Secret Departments, an account of your affairs here however it may be necessary by way of elucidation for me to say something on some points, and which gives you the trouble of this letter

3. You will see that the war with Suja O Dowla is nearly brought to an happy period by it's being I believe out of his power to give you any material disturbance. He is dispossessed of the principal part of the country he held and his forces will never I hope make head again with any effect and when General Carnac possesses himself of Lucknow which I make no doubt a few days will effect he will then have no footing left. His troops are mostly dispersed and disheartened and many have abandoned his party and come over to the King who is going to and will now be settled in Shahad and be put in possession of Suja O Dowla's country on the terms of treaty. When we have so done there end our engagements with him and there they ought to end for I cannot but think that more distant engagements would at last prove ruinous to your affairs and shall not therefore be adopted by me nor I hope by those that may hereafter succeed to the management of your affairs.

4. The King thus settled and countenanced by us we have reason to believe will be able to support himself without any way involving us. Our plan is to leave him there as soon as we can and return to the frontiers of these provinces or rather in the Cazipore country assigned to you as you will see in our advices for you must always canton troops so as to cover these provinces at all times, and they should be a large proportion of your troops not only as a more healthfull situation but a necesary to preserve your influence in these provinces likewise. The King so situated will be a good barrier to the country and we shall not need to apprehend from him.

5. You will please to observe that this war with Suja O Dowla has never been a matter of choice but of absolute necessity and the same holds good respecting the treaty with the King. It would have been prudent in us and it was our desire not to have entirely ruined Suja O Dowla but to have had him rather a barrier between us and other powers, could we have once brought him to a conviction that it was his real interest to have been on friendly terms with us. You will see in the course of our proceedings that this was our desire even after the battle of Buxar but he continued obstinate and thus we were obliged to in order to avoid engagement with the King but when he slighted all overtures and any retreating on our part seemed to produce the contrary effect your interest compelled us to set the King's power against his and convince the empire we were not determined to destroy the Muhammadan power which was artfully insinuated and which our not receiving the King would have but confirmed at last however abundantly established a belief that our real view were to weaken the empire from their hand.

6 Thus situated, we had no other system to act by, but that we have adopted, and happy I am that I have had such a share in reestablishing [*sic*] your affairs here. You will see that we, since our engagements with the King, have even receded so far as to consent to receive as a satisfaction, that Mī Cossim and Sumro should be punished by him, (instead of being delivered up to us) as an act of justice for the blood they have so unjustly spilt, provided we, through the King, could have brought about a peace in which the interest of the King could have been also considered, but this took no effect, and there now seems no other choice but for the King to hold the country in his own name and support proper people under him. In short to leave him the entire management of those countries except that part next to Bengal assigned to you as mentioned in our advices. Even that, had circumstances made it requisite, or that we could thereby have procured peace satisfactory to all parties, we should not have been averse even to have given up in some degree our pretensions to, had that been the only obstacle to so desirable an end as a solid accommodation would be, having an eye in this to the reluctance you so justly express to new expeditions or distant acquisitions. But as matters are circumstanced, it was but our duty to secure you such funds as we could, to support so heavy a war.

7 Suja O Dowla is retired from Lucknow and the province of Oud, and is said to be gone to seek refuge and assistance among the Rohillas, a power situated near Delli, under Nejib O Dowla<sup>2</sup> who is their head, but it's a power under independant chiefs who do not draw together, and though Nejib O Dowla and Suja O Dowla have outwardly professed friendship, yet it's a truth that their disagreements about the division of power have been the chief obstacle to the King's acquiring influence in the empire, and though they never came to a rupture about it, yet it's a point on which they always greatly differed. I cannot indeed pretend to say he will not assist him in distress, especially if he is possessed still of treasure, yet I believe they will make no great effort in his behalf, being themselves involved with the Jauts and Marattas who support Gazo Dīn Khan, the late Vizier's interest, and who are of course enemies to Suja O Dowla, the mortal enemy of Gazo Dīn Khan. Cossim Allī has been plundered of his effects, and is now an object from which we have nothing to fear in future. Where he is retired I do not yet exactly know but I believe that his fate, and that of Suja O Dowla subsequent to it, will imprint such an idea in the minds of these eastern people of us, as will deter the chiefs of this empire from disturbing the peace of these provinces in future, especially while they are convinced we are on our guard.

8 Thus are our affairs situated up country, and you may rest assured of my vigilance while I remain in power here, to seize every opportunity to benefit them as far as it can be consistently done. I shall now proceed to make some observations on our transactions in consequence of the demise of Jaffir Allī Khan, the late Nabob.

9 We have thought it most prudent to support his eldest son in the government, as pointed out by the late Nabob. Certainly he is not equal to such a charge, but as much so, or more, than any of the family. To have sought for any one out of the family might, as affairs are circumstanced, have been attended with very evil consequences to your affairs and the country in general at this juncture besides the appearance of injustice it would wear,

and what we have done is consonant to your late orders to support Jaffir and his family. This therefore was our plan as to the successor and our proceedings now sent home shew the steps we have taken to prevent too much power falling into any one man's hands under him especially in those of Nundocamar<sup>2</sup> whose evil disposition to our affairs in general is too notorious to you and us, but during the time of the late Nabob it was thought too disgustfull a measure to enforce his removal. We shall however by the measures pursuing reduce his power within moderate bounds if not prevail on the Nabob totally to remove him which must depend on the advices of our deputies at Muxadabad who are now there carrying our agreement with the Nabob into execution.

10 To prevent revolutions or changes in future we thought it safest for your affairs to let the defence of the provinces lay on us and us only or in fact that there should be no military force but yours. This will put it out of the power of any one ever in future to disturb your affairs by commotions or otherwise and also give you a sufficient fund for such military force. I would have fixed this at five lacks per month by rendering the temporary assignment of that sum a perpetual one but this being thought by some to bear too hard on the provinces, it is modified as you will see in the treaty. My sentiments are that considering the hazard your affairs have from time to time ran your heavy expences of sending out and maintaining troops and the heavy dis-  
 apointment you have sustained in your investments that such a sum should be assigned you for your military expence as would leave you the major part  
 meaning of your revenues as a resource for your trade and  
 Burdwan &c. other expences or in other words, that as your forces defend the provinces the provinces should pay them and this in fact will be the case still till your pleasure on this head is known as to the force you will add to your present destined number of Europeans to your establishment of this season. And it will be necessary that you are explicit for if you point out that the provinces so situated should pay this full sum of five lacks only mention it in your letters as your intention and it will be done without hesitation. This step will so effectually preserve your influence here and on a footing not to be shaken that I cannot but most earnestly recommend it to you to make your establishment here including four companies of artillery four thousand Europeans. This would be a force full adequate to all purposes respecting the country government lessen your dependance on sepoys whose numbers in proportion to your Europeans have at all times rendered them so extremely dangerous as has been so fatally experienced last year and which ought to be lessened as soon as prudently may be and such an European force would put it out of the power of and deter any other European nation from attempting to disturb you in your present noble acquisitions especially co-operating with the force you have determined to keep up also on the coast of Coromandel. This great object was my motive for ascertaining to you a permanent fund to enable you to keep such a force as should put your affairs out of all hazard and as it stands in the treaty it will as I served above be whatever you please to have it and happy will always be the reflection to me that I have been in any degree instrumental in putting your affairs on a flourishing footing as they now are.

11 The other articles to the treaty and our proceedings thereon speak so plainly for themselves as to need no remark here. I have therefore only to

observe that this was so fair an opportunity to secure to you the reversion of Lord Clive's *jaghire* that I thought it a duty not to let it slip in expectation of his arrival, when the government being once settled it might not be so easily effected, especially as Lord Clive had not the connection with, or knowledge of, the present Nabob that he had with Mir Jaffir. It was therefore made a part of the instructions to our deputies, and I have the pleasure to advise you that the Nabob has consented to cede to you this considerable addition of rupees 2,22,000, to your estate here, and which will in due time relieve you from the disagreeable circumstance of being accountable to any one for this *jaghire*, which by changes might have fallen into very improper hands.

12 You are advised that Mr Law is arrived on the Coast of Coromandel at the head of the French affairs in India. I do not expect him here till May, nor is any one yet arrived here. In the mean time I am taking every measure that appears necessary to prevent their acquiring any other influence than is by treaty intended they should have, and as a necessary precaution, I have wrote to the Commanding Officer of the army and your Chief at Benares, to be vigilant that no emissary of Mr Law's endeavours to procure privately any improper grants from the King, which Mr Law's former connections with him might prompt him to ask and the King to grant. And this new connection of ours with the King I look on in this respect as a most fortunate circumstance. Immediately on forming it, I wrote to your President at Madras to know whether any grants from the King, or what, could benefit your affairs that way, either by confirming the Nabob more fully there, or otherwise. In answer Mr Palk has requested of me to endeavour to procure for you the right by *sumnuds* to the five Northern Circars<sup>4</sup> adjacent to Masulipatam which would put your affairs with Nizam Ali, the acting *Suba* of the Decan on a more respectable footing. These I am privately managing at the request of Governor Palk through General Carnac, to prevent it's giving umbrage, which measure I take it for granted I shall succeed in, without expence, and it will be more necessary to prevent the French designs that way, who, notwithstanding the restriction of treaty, may be led to fortify themselves with every plausible grant or protection they can, and this previous precaution of ours will add to the security of your already valuable possessions on that coast.

13 The only thing I could think of to benefit your affairs on the Bombay establishment would have been to enlarge your grants at Surat, by procuring *sumnuds* for the whole, leaving it to the consideration of the gentlemen to use them or not, but as such grants might only serve to excite the jealousy of your Maratta neighbours, and would perhaps unite them and the Moors that way against your interest, I thought it most prudent to desist, and leave things there as they at present are, and if such grants should be hereafter found necessary, it would always be in our power to procure them.

14 The burthen of the war before the assignment of the 5 lacks per month, fell so heavy on you that almost every rupee was diverted to the purposes of it, and this unavoidably. You have felt it in your investments of the past season, however even in them you will find more done than considering every thing, could have well been expected. This must also account for the large drafts on you this year, much more was tendered, and with conveniency to your affairs here might have been received, but the consideration of the inconveniency such drafts might be of to you at home with held our hands, and

I hope those drafts that necessity alone has compelled us to give will be approved of

15 The drafts on the whole will be about 22 lacks of rupees by the three ships of the season Our invoices by them will be better than	27 lacks
We have remitted to China by the <i>Argo</i>	10
The drafts from Bombay answered by us and the amount sent them in petre falls very little short of	9
The drafts from Madras on us and our supplies of opium to the West Coast will be little short of	3
	<hr/> 49 lacks

so that you will please to observe that exclusive of the drain on us for the support of the warr we have applied 49 lacks and upwards to your mercantile purposes of the season And well knowing the high importance of it to you it has been my study to promote by every means in my power your mercantile interests which the fatality of the times till lately have made almost a secondary object with your servants here I mean not in this any reflection on their conduct as you have many valuable servants here but to shew the situation your affairs have been in I have the pleasure to advise you that you have a fair prospect of a large investment for the ensuing season timely advances having been made for this purpose within these two months and being thus early and to the extent of what has been required at each *arung* amounting to upwards of twenty lacks already I have the greatest hopes therefrom and shall particularly attend to keep the *arungs* and factories in this respect as fully supplied as our circumstances will admitt of and if possible to send a further supply to China.

16 You will observe no less than 25000 bags of saltpetre sent to Bombay in the course of this season this is intended not so much to supply their wants of this season as to give them a years petre beforehand thereby to ease you of the demurrage and inconveniencies arising by late dispatches from that Presidency which has for several years past been obliged to keep its ships till the arrival of the petre from Bengal before they could be loaded and which was a heavy burthen on your affairs that way and which by this step will be removed and by it I hope you will not have any ships on hand in India provided they arrive in time to be sent home but as before observed the *Kent* is not yet arrived nor have we any advice this way of the *Admiral Pocock* since her putting back to Nolo on her way from Manilla Should she return to India in time she is destined one of your homeward ships from Bombay

17 The gentlemen at the West Coast within the course of eight months past have had large supplies of opium sent them and sensible of the importance of it to your interest there it is fixed that they have large annual supplies of that material article agreeable to their indent and both at Bombay and here the welfare of that establishment as far as has been in my power always had particular attention shewn to it

18 One circumstance more I have to observe before I close this address and that is in a motive of humanity and at the same time as it is of the utmost importance to your affairs respecting the troops sent out The sad mortality by the *Lord Anson* noticed and worse is to be apprehended from the *Parr*

of *Wales*, which ship we hear nothing of since her leaving *Sta Cruz*. Late dispatches do not answer for the conveyance of troops to *India* in crowded ships, as the length of the passage is generally attended with fatal consequences. It was a case of necessity this year, but in such cases the commanders should positively be enjoined to touch at such ports as conveniently may be to refresh their people, and some ampler provision made of wine &c. for refreshing and heartening the sick in the course of the voyage, the want of which and a sufficient stock of medicines to such an increased number of people, added much to the mortality on board. But an early dispatch, and thereby shortening the passages, will be the surest preservative of your troops.

19 Major *Munio* now leaves us, whose eminent services speak so much for themselves as to leave little necessity to remark on the publick conduct of this valuable officer. It is, however, but doing justice to his private character to say it is in all respects amiable, and this happy disposition in him produced the unanimity and spirited conduct in our troops at the important battle of *Buxar* which broke the force of *Suja O Dowla*. His conciliating obliging temper made everything between him and the Board pass on with such unanimity as has been productive of happy effects, and I shall, as the last act of justice in my power, beg leave to recommend him in the strongest terms to your notice. He has mentioned to me the services of Major *Pemble*,<sup>7</sup> who came down in the command of the *Bombay Detachment*, he ranks here next to Major *Champion*, and as from the importance of your affairs here, officers of his rank and experience in the country are so highly necessary, I beg leave to recommend him to your notice, to fix him in the rank he now holds on this establishment. His services when at *Manilla*, and now here, render him worthy of this distinction, and Major *Munio* will, if necessary, bear ample testimony of his merit, and he is of himself so esteemed here, that he would be received without objection by your officers in general.

20 It is not, I hope, necessary to urge here, that I have been perfectly disinterested in my transactions relative to the Government or otherwise, and that what has appeared to me the best calculated for the general and lasting good both of the *Honourable Company* and the country has been, to the best of my judgement, adopted and steadily pursued, and I hope such a foundation is now laid, as that your influence and power in this country will not be easily lessened in future, and that these provinces will be free from the calamities that they have sustained, which a little vigilance on our side, and your firmly supporting from home the plan now adopted as in the treaty, will at all times prevent. Let me also add my hope that my endeavours for the general good, and your interests in particular may meet your approbation, which will give me particular satisfaction whatever may be the success of my application to you in my address accompanying this, it having been my constant endeavour during a series of 24 years to manifest myself on all occasions a faithful servant of the *Honourable Company*.

Fort William,  
the 14th of March 1765  
[Per *Bute*]

I have the honor to be with respect  
Honourable Sirs,  
Your most obedient humble servant,  
J Spencer



## LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1765

*Sudden and unwarrantable acquisition of riches by Company's servants—all pervasive spirit of disobedience and indiscipline—military also affected by the spirit of avarice—Clive's praise for General Carnac's integrity—possessions to be confined to Bengal Bihar and Orissa—reasons for restoring Shujaud Daulah's dominions—Clive's views about the powers of a Governor and his Council—expediency of a Select Committee—suggests appointment of Madras civilians to Bengal establishment—ban on use of dastaks by writers ineffectual—increase in Company's revenues by the acquisition of Diwani—attitude of Indian powers towards the English—regulations for trade in salt betel nut and tobacco—encroachment of the military upon the civil jurisdiction—recommends Sir Robert Barker—praises Verelst and Cartier for incorruptibility—Clive's title to the jagir*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors.

Gentlemen

1 By the letter from the Select Committee and copy of their proceedings which are transmitted to you by this conveyance you will be enabled to form a general idea of the state of this settlement on the arrival of the ship *Kent* together with the measures we thought necessary to pursue in order to settle the Company's affairs in these provinces upon an advantageous and permanent foundation. You will permit me however to lay before you my own sentiments in particular concerning those measures, and to communicate also by this earliest opportunity such others as I wish should be adopted before I quit the Government and which I hope will be not only approved of but likewise so fully confirmed and established by the Court of Directors that the abuses which may otherwise be revived by the ambition and avarice of some future Governors or Councils may be effectually prevented.

2. Upon my arrival I am sorry to say I found your affairs in a condition so nearly desperate as would have alarmed any set of men whose sense of honor and duty to their employers had not been estranged by the too eager pursuit of their own immediate advantage. The sudden and among many the unwarrantable acquisition of riches had introduced luxury in every shape and in its most pernicious excess. These two enormous evils went hand in hand together through the whole Presidency infecting almost every member of each department. Every inferior seemed to have grasped at wealth that he might be enabled to assume the spirit of profusion which was now the only distinction between him and his superiour. Thus all distinction ceased and every rank became in a manner upon an equality. Nor was this the end of the mischief for a contest of such a nature among your servants necessarily destroyed all proportion between their wants and the honest means of satisfying them. In a country where money is plenty where fear is the principle of government and where your arms are ever victorious in such a country I say it is no wonder that corruption should find its way to a spot so well prepared to receive it. It is no wonder that the lust of riches should readily

embrace the proffered means of its gratification, or that the instruments of your power should avail themselves of their authority, and proceed even to extortion in those cases where simple corruption could not keep pace with their rapacity. Examples of this sort, set by superiors, could not fail of being followed in a proportionate degree by inferiours. The evil was contagious, and spread among the civil and military, down to the writer, the ensign, and the free merchant.

3 The large sums of money acquired by donation, besides the means I have already mentioned, were so publickly known and vindicated, that every one thought he had a right to enrich himself, at all events, with as much expedition as possible. The monopoly of salt, betle, tobacco, &c was another fund of immense profits to the Company's servants, and likewise to such others as they permitted to enjoy a share, while not a rupee of advantage accrued to the government and very little to the Company, from that trade. Before I had discovered these various sources of wealth, I was under great astonishment to find individuals so suddenly enriched, that there was scarce a gentleman in the settlement who had not fixed upon a very short period for his return to England with affluence. From hence arose that forward spirit of independancy which in a manner set all your orders at defiance, and dictated a total contempt of them as often as obedience was found incompatible with private interest. At the time of my arrival, I saw nothing that bore the form or appearance of Government. The authority and pre-eminence of the Governor, were levelled with those of the Councillors, every Councillor was as much a Governor as he who bore the name, and distinction of rank, as I have already observed, was no longer to be found in the whole settlement. Notwithstanding a special order from the Court of Directors, founded on very wise and very evident reasons, that all correspondence with the country powers should be carried on solely in the Governor's name, I found, that our whole correspondence with the Great Mogul, the *subahs*, nabobs and rajahs, had been of late carried on by and in the name of the whole Board, and that every servant and free merchant corresponded with whom they pleased.

4 Your orders for the execution of the covenants were positive, and expressly mentioned to be the resolution of a General Court of Proprietors. your servants at Bengal, however, absolutely determined to reject them, and had not the Select Committee resolved that the example should be first set by the Council, or a suspension from your service take place, it is certain they would have remained unexecuted to this hour. You will not I imagine, be much surprised at this breach of duty, if you look over the General Letters, where you cannot avoid seeing how many are annually committed, and how fast everything was tending to a contempt of your authority. From a short survey of the late transactions, I was convinced, that no other remedy was left, than an immediate and vigorous exertion of the powers with which the Committee were invested. Happy, in my opinion was it for the Company, that such powers were granted, for that the settlement, so conducted, could have subsisted another twelvemonth, appears to me an impossibility. A great part of the revenues of the country amounting to near four millions sterling per annum would have been divided among your servants, and the acquisition of fortunes being so sudden, a few months must have brought writers into Council. Seniority must have been admitted as a just claim to a seat at the Board, without

the qualification of age or experience because the rapidity of succession denied the attainment of either

5 Nor were these excesses confined to your civil servants alone the military department also had caught the infection and riches, the bane of discipline were daily promoting the ruin of your army The too little inequality of rank rendered the advantages of captains, lieutenants, and ensigns so nearly upon a par and so large that an independent fortune was no distant prospect even to a subaltern If a too quick succession among those from whom you expect the study of commerce and polity, is detrimental to your civil concerns, how effectually destructive must that evil prove to your military operations. The most experienced European officer when he has entered into the East India service although he may be able in many points to suggest improvement to others will nevertheless find that something new remains for himself to learn peculiar to this service which cannot be attained in a day Judge then how the case must stand with youths, who are either just sent out from the academy or which more frequently happens who have had no education at all for to such have we often been reduced to the necessity of granting commissions. How much must the expectations of your army be raised when they are suffered without controul to take possession for themselves of the whole booty donation money and plunder on the capture of a city? This I can assure you happened at Benares,<sup>2</sup> and what is more surprizing the then Governor and Council so far from laying in a claim to the moiety which ought to have been reserved for the Company agreeable to those positive orders from the Court of Directors a few years ago when they were pleased to put their forces upon the same footing with those of His Majesty gave up the whole to the captors. You have heard of the general mutiny that happened among your seapoyes a little before my arrival. What would have been your consternation had you also heard of an unanimous desertion of your European soldiers? These were very serious events indeed and had it not been for one well timed vigorous act of Major Munro and the unwearied zeal and military abilities of General Carnac who totally suppressed the spirit of mutiny among the soldiers your possessions in India might at this time have been destitute of a man to support them and even the privilege of commerce irreverably crushed. Common justice to the principles and conduct of General Carnac oblige me farther to add that I found him the only officer of rank who had resisted the temptations to which by his station he was constantly subject of acquiring an immense fortune and I question much whether he is not the only man who has of late years been honored with the command of your forces without acquiring a very large independency. The letter from the Great Mogul to the Governor and Council requesting their permission for him to accept a present of two lak which His Majesty is desirous of bestowing on him as a reward for his disinterested services will certify what I have said in his favour and as this affair agreeable to the tenor of the covenants is referred to the Court of Directors I make no doubt they will readily embrace the opportunity of shewing their regard to such distinguished merit by consenting to his acceptance of His Majesty's bounty.

6 If the picture I have drawn be a faithful likeness of this Presidency and I call upon the most guilty for guilty there are to shew that I have aggravated a fault or what a deplorable condition must your affairs have

soon been reduced? Every state (and such now is your Government in India) must be near its period, when the rage of luxury and corruption has seized upon its leaders and inhabitants. Can trade be encouraged for public benefit, where the management unfortunately devolves upon those who make private interest their rule of action? And farther has sudden affluence ever failed from the infancy of military discipline to the present perfection of it, to corrupt the principle and destroy the spirit of an army? Independency of fortune is always averse to those duties of subordination which are inseparable from the life of a soldier and in this country, if the acquisition be sudden, a relaxation of discipline is more immediately the consequence. I would not be thought, by these observations, to exclude riches from the military. Honor alone is scarcely a sufficient reward for the toilsome service of the field. But the acquisition of wealth ought to be so gradual as to admit not a prospect of completing it, till succession by merit to the rank of a field officer, should have laid a good foundation for the claim. Such is the idea I entertained of this matter, when I delivered my sentiments to the Court of Directors, in my letter of the 27th April 1764, and I have acted in conformity thereto, by regimenting the troops in the manner I then proposed. I need not repeat the observations I troubled you with in that letter. It is sufficient to remark here, that the good effects of the plan are already visible, that subordination is restored, abuses corrected, and your expences, of course, already greatly diminished.

7 The war, which to my great concern I found extended above 700 miles from the Presidency, is now happily concluded, and a peace established upon terms which promise lasting tranquillity to these provinces. This event has, I find, disappointed the expectations of many who thought of nothing but a march with the King to Delhi. My resolution, however, was, and my hopes will always be, to confine our assistance, our conquests, and our possessions, to Bengal, Bahar, and Orissa. To go farther, is in my opinion, a scheme so extravagantly ambitious and absurd, that no Governor and Council in their senses can ever adopt it, unless the whole system of the Company's interest be first entirely new modelled.

8 I forbear troubling you with a detail of the negotiations of General Carnac, and me, with the country powers, and the particulars of the treaty of peace with the Vizier<sup>3</sup> of the empire, as they will be spoken of at large in the letter from the Select Committee, and appear likewise upon the face of our proceedings. I will, however, just remark that our restoring to Shuja Doula the whole of his dominions proceeds more from the policy of not extending the Company's territorial possessions, than the generous principle of attaching him for ever to our interest by gratitude, though this has been the apparent, and is by many thought to be the real motive. Had we ambitiously attempted to retain the conquered country, experience would soon have proved the absurdity and impracticability of such a plan. The establishment of your army must have been largely increased, a considerable number of civil servants must have been added to your list, and more chiefships appointed, the acts of oppression and innumerable abuses, which would have been committed, and which could neither have been prevented, nor remedied, at so great a distance from the Presidency, must infallibly have laid the foundation of another war, destructive and unsuccessful, our old privileges and possessions would have

been endangered by every supply we might have been tempted to afford in support of the new and the natives must have finally triumphed in our inability to sustain the weight of our own ambition.

9 To return to the point from which this digression had led me I must carry you back to the description above given of the situation in which I found your affairs on my arrival. Two paths were evidently open to me the one smooth and strewed with abundance of rich advantages that might easily be pickt up the other untrodden and every step opposed with obstacles. I might have taken charge of the Government upon the same footing on which I found it that is, I might have enjoyed the name of Governor and have suffered the honor importance and dignity of the post to continue in their state of annihilation I might have contented myself as others had before me with being a cypher or what is little better the first among sixteen equals and I might have allowed this passive conduct to be attended with the usual douceur of sharing largely with the best of the gentlemen in all donations perquisites &c. arising from the absolute government, and disposal of all places in the revenues of this opulent kingdom by which means, I might soon have acquired an immense addition to my fortune notwithstanding the obligations in the new covenants for the man who can so easily get over the bar of conscience as to receive presents after the execution of them will not scruple to make use of any evasions that may protect him from the consequence. The settlement in general would thus have been my friends and only the natives of the country my enemies. If you can conceive a Governor in such a situation it is impossible to form a wrong judgement of the inferior servants or of the Company's affairs at such a Presidency. An honorable alternative however lay before me I had the power within my own breast to fulfill the duty of my station by remaining incorruptible in the midst of numberless temptations artfully thrown in my way by exposing my character to every attack which malice or resentment are so apt to invent against any man who attempts reformation and by encountering of course the odium of the settlement I hesitated not a moment which choice to make. I took upon my shoulders a burthen which required resolution perseverance and constitution to support. Having chosen my part I was determined to exert myself in the attempt happy in the reflection that the honor of the nation and the very being of the Company would be maintained by the success and conscious that if I failed my integrity and good intentions at least must remain unimpeached. The other members of the Committee joined with me in opinion that in order to proceed upon business it was absolutely necessary for us to assume the powers wherewith we were invested. We saw plainly that most of the gentlemen in Council had been too deeply concerned themselves in the measures which required amendment for us to expect any assistance from them on the contrary we were certain of finding opposition to every plan of innovation and an unanimous attempt to defeat the intentions of the Proprietors who solicited my acceptance of the Government. The Committee therefore immediately met and I had the happiness to find myself supported by gentlemen whom no temptations could seduce nor inconveniences or threats of malice deter. Our proceedings will convince you that we have acted with firmness and integrity and will at the same time demonstrate that temper unanimity and dispatch must ever mark the proceedings of men united by private interest.

10 The gentlemen in Council of late years at Bengal, seem to have been actuated in every consultation by a very obstinate and mischievous spirit. The office of Governor has been in a manner hunted down, stripped of its dignity, and then divided into 16 shares. Whether ambition, obstinacy, pride, or self interest is usually the motive to such a pursuit, I will not take upon me to determine, but am sure it can never arise from a just idea of government, or a true sense of the Company's interest. In my opinion it is the duty of the Council to make the power of the President appear as extensive as possible in the eyes of the people, that all correspondence with the country princes, should be carried on through him alone, some particular cases excepted, that the Council should upon all occasions, be unanimous in supporting, not in extenuating the dignity of his station, and that he ought to be considered among the natives, as the sole manager and conductor of political affairs. This should be the outward appearance of administration, though in reality, the Council must be allowed a freedom of judgement, and when they perceive in the Governor a tendency to absolute or unjustifiable measures, it then becomes their duty to check him. If they at any time have reason to distrust the rectitude of his principles, they should not allow him to execute designs even of the smallest moment, without previously laying them before the Board, and obtaining their approbation. In short the best Governor should not, except in cases of necessity, be suffered to conclude any points of importance without the sanction of the Board. But the expedient of a Select Committee<sup>4</sup> equally prevents any ill conduct in the Governor, and is besides attended with advantages which can rarely be expected from the whole body of councillors. Five gentlemen well versed in the Company's true interest, of abilities to plan, and resolution to execute, gentlemen whose fortunes are honorably approaching to affluence, and whose integrity has never suffered them to exceed the bounds of moderation, a Select Committee composed of such men will transact more business in a week, than the Council can in a month. The opinions and judgement of five men, are as securely to be relied on, even in affairs of the utmost consequence, as sixteen, they are less liable to dissention, and it may be said beyond a contradiction, that their administration is more distant from democratic anarchy. The Council, however, would not be a useless body, for whilst the attention of the Committee was chiefly engaged in watching and repairing the main springs of government, the Council would as materially serve the Company in attending to the many other movements of the great machine, which are as essentially necessary to the public advantage and security. And that the Committee should not be able to carry their powers to any dangerous length, they might be ordered annually, before the dispatch of the Europe ships, to submit their proceedings to the review of the gentlemen in Council, who might transmit their opinions thereupon to the Court of Directors. Your present Select Committee have from time to time laid most of their proceedings before Council, and we intend to continue the same system of candour, except in any political cases of secrecy, when prudence may require that our resolutions should be confined to the knowledge of a few.

11 Thus freely I have given you my opinion upon the sort of government I could wish to see established in this settlement, nor shall I think my duty done till I have pointed out every measure that seems to me best calculated to preserve your affairs from destruction. At Bengal the rule of succession

among your servants is perniciously exact there are frequent occasions where it ought to be set aside where experience understanding integrity moderation ought to take place of accidental seniority The demerits of most of your superior servants have been so great as you will learn from the Committee proceedings, that one can hardly imagine their future behaviour will entitle them to farther favors than you have hitherto bestowed on them. I do not pretend to surmise what sentence you may pronounce upon the gentlemen who came under the censure of the Committee but whether it be moderate as ours, or severe as it deserves, it will not much concern them since all of them are now in very affluent circumstances, and will probably return to Europe by this or the next years shipping Peruse then the list of your covenanted servants upon this establishment. You will find that many of those next in succession are not only very young in the service and consequently unfit for such exalted stations but are also strongly tainted with the principles of their superiors. If your opinion should correspond with mine some remedy will be judged necessary to be applied and I confess I see but one. The unhappy change which within these few years has arisen in the manners and conduct of your servants at Bengal is alone sufficient to remove the objections I once had to appointments from another settlement<sup>s</sup> and the difficulty which now too plainly appears of filling up vacancies in Council with the requisite attention to the Company's honor and welfare inclines me to wish such appointments more frequent. In the present state of this Presidency no measure can I think prove more salutary than to appoint five or six gentlemen from the Coast to the Bengal establishment and there to post them agreeable to their rank and standing in the service Messrs. Russell Floyer Aldersey and Kelsall are among those who would be well worthy your attention if this plan should be adopted I cannot help farther recommending to your consideration whether if every other method should be found ineffectual the transplanting a few of the young Bengal servants to Madras, would not be of signal service both to themselves and the Company You will likewise consider whether the settlement of Bombay is capable of furnishing us with a few meritorious servants With regard to Madras the conduct of the gentlemen upon that establishment is in general so unexceptionable that to present Bengal with such examples of regularity discretion and moderation would I think be a means of restoring it to good order and government. It is just a doubt that every attempt of reformation must fail unless the superior servants be exemplary in their principles and conduct. If we see nothing but rapacity among councillors in vain shall we look for moderation among writers

12. The sources of tyranny and oppression which have been opened by the European agents acting under the authority of the Company's servant and the numberless black agents and sub agents acting also under them will I fear be a lasting reproach to the English name in this country. It is impossible to enumerate the complaints that have been laid before me by the unfortunate inhabitants who had not forgot that I was an enemy to oppression. The necessity of securing the confidence of the natives is an idea I have ever maintained and was in hopes would be invariably adopted by others but ambition avarice and luxury have I find introduced a new system of politics at the severe expence of English honor of the Company's faith and even of common justice and humanity. The order so frequently issued that no

writers shall have the privilege of *dustucks*, I have strictly obeyed but I am sorry to inform you that all the wished-for consequences are not to be expected, the officers of the Government are so sensible of our influence and authority, that they dare not presume to search or stop a boat protected by the name of a Company's servant, and you may be assured that frauds of that kind, so easy to be practised, and so difficult to be detected, are but too frequent I have at last, however, the happiness to see the completion of an event, which in this respect, as well as in many others, must be productive of advantages hitherto unknown, and at the same time prevent abuses that have hitherto had no remedy I mean the *dezzannee* which is the superintendancy of all the lands, and the collection of all the revenues of the provinces of Bengal, Bahar and Orissa The assistance which the Great Mogul had received from our arms and treasury, made him readily bestow this grant upon the Company, and it is done in the most effectual manner you can desire The allowance for the support of the Nabob's dignity and power,<sup>6</sup> and the tribute to His Majesty, must be regularly paid the remainder belongs to the Company Revolutions are now no longer to be apprehended, the means of effecting them, will in future be wanting to ambitious Mussulmen, nor will your servants—civil or military—be tempted to foment disturbances, from whence can arise no benefit to themselves Restitution, donation money &c &c will be perfectly abolished, as the revenues from whence they used to issue will be possessed by ourselves The power of supervising the provinces though lodged in us, should not, however, in my opinion be exerted Three times the present number of civil servants would be insufficient for the purpose whereas if we leave the management to the old officers of the Government, the Company need not be at the expence of one additional servant, and though we may suffer in the collection yet we shall always be able to detect and punish any great offenders, and shall have some satisfaction in knowing that the corruption is not among ourselves By this means also, the abuses inevitably springing from the exercise of territorial authority, will be effectually obviated, there will still be a Nabob with an allowance suitable to his dignity, and the territorial jurisdiction will still be in the chiefs of the country acting under him and the Presidency in conjunction, though the revenues will belong to the Company Besides, were the Company's officers to be the collectors, foreign nations would immediately take umbrage, and complaints preferred to the British Court might be attended with very embarrassing consequences Nor can it be supposed, that either the French, Dutch or Danes will acknowledge the English Company—Nabob of Bengal, and pay into the hands of their servants the duties upon trade, or the quit rents of those districts which they have for many years possessed by virtue of the royal *phurmaund* or by grants from former Nabobs

13 Your revenues, by means of this new acquisition, will, as near as I can judge, not fall far short for the ensuing year of 250 lacks of *sicca* rupees, including your former possessions of Burdwan &c, hereafter they will at least amount to 20, or 30 lacks more Your civil and military expences, in time of peace can never exceed 60 lack of rupees The Nabob's allowances are already reduced to 42 lack, and the tribute to the King is fixt at 26 So that there will be remaining a clear gain to the Company of 122 lack of *sicca* rupees, or £1,650,900 sterling, which will defray all the expence of the investment, furnish the whole of the China treasure, answer the demands of all your other



settlements in India and leave a considerable ballance in your treasury besides. In time of war when the country may be subject to the incursions of bodies of cavalry we shall notwithstanding be able to collect a sufficient sum for our civil and military exigencies, and likewise for our investments because a very rich part of the Bengal and Bahar dominions are situated to the eastward of the Ganges where we can never be invaded. What I have given you is a real, not imaginary state of your revenues and you may be assured they will not fall short of my computation.

14 Permit me here to have the honor of laying before you one striking circumstance which has occurred to me in considering the subject of the *dewanee* and the consequences of your large increase of revenues. I have already observed, that our acquisition will give no umbrage to foreign nations with respect to our territorial jurisdiction so long as the present appearance of the Nabob's power is preserved but I am convinced they will ever long entertain jealousies of our commercial superiority. Public complaints have indeed been already made from both French and Dutch factories, that the dread of the English name added to the encouragement of your servants at the different *aurungs* had deterred the weavers from complying with their usual and necessary demands and I am persuaded that sooner or later national remonstrances will be made on that subject. Perhaps one half of the trade being reserved to the English Company and the other divided between the French Dutch and Danes in such proportions as may be settled between their respective commissaries might adjust these disputes to the mutual satisfaction of all parties. Besides as every nation which trades to the East Indies constantly brings out silver for the purchase of merchandize in return and as our revenues will for the future enable us to furnish all our investments without any remittance from England it seems necessary that we should in some degree encourage the trade of others in order that this country may be supplied by them with bullion to replace the quantity we shall annually send to China or to any other part of the world. It is impossible for me to be a sufficient judge of the practicability or propriety of admitting other nations to such a proportion of trade with us in these parts nor will you suspect that I entertain a thought of taking any step without instructions from you in an affair of such national importance. I do not even presume to argue upon the subject I only mention it as a point which has occurred to me and which I think well merits your most serious consideration.

15 Considering the excesses we have of late years manifested in our conduct the princes of Indostan will not readily imagine us capable of moderation nor can we expect they will ever be attached to us by any other motive than fear. Meer Jassier Coosim Ally the present Nabob and even Mahomed Ally the Nabob of Arcot (the best Mussulman I ever knew) have afforded instances sufficient of their inclination to throw off the English superiority. No opportunity will ever be neglected that seems to favor an attempt to extirpate us though the consequences while we keep our army complete must in the end be more fatal to themselves. Thus impatience under the subjection, as I may call it, Europeans is natural but so great is the infatuation of the natives of this country that they look no farther than the present moment and will put their all to the hazard of a single battle. Even our young Nabob who is the son of a prostitute who has little ability and

less education to supply the want of them, mean, weak, and ignorant as this man is, he would, if left to himself, and few of his artful flatterers, pursue the very paths of his predecessors. It is impossible therefore to trust him with power and be safe. If you mean to maintain your present possessions and advantages, the command of the army and receipt of the revenues must be kept in your own hands, every wish he may express to obtain either, be assured, is an indication of his desire to reduce you to your original state of dependency, to which you can never now return without ceasing to exist. If you allow the Nabob to have forces he will soon raise money, if you allow him a full treasury without forces, he will certainly make use of it to invite the Marattas or other powers to invade the country, upon a supposition that we shall not suspect the part he takes, and that, success will restore him to the full extent of his sovereignty, for so ignorant is he even of the nature of his own countrymen, that he would never imagine the very men he had paid to rescue the dominions from us, would only conquer to seize the spoil for themselves. Such is he, whom we now call Nabob, and such are the faithless politics of Indostan. We have adopted, however, a plan, which, if strictly adhered to, must effectually prevent his involving the Company or himself in any difficulties. Mahomed Reza Cawn, Roy Dullub, and Juggut Seat,<sup>7</sup> men of the most approved credit and moderation, are appointed jointly to the management of all his affairs,<sup>8</sup> nor is either of them to act singly in any measure of government. The royal treasury is under three different locks and keys, and each of these ministers of state has a key, so that no money can be issued for any service whatever, without the joint knowledge and consent of them all. Our Resident at the Durbar is to inspect the treasury accounts from time to time, as he or the Governor and Council may think proper but we are never to interfere in the appointment or complaints of any officer under the Government, nor in any particulars relative to the abovementioned departments, unless some extraordinary conduct of the ministry should render alterations requisite. This form of government I thought proper to recommend, in order to purge the court of a set of knaves and parasites, by whom the Nabob was surrounded, and who were always undermining our influence, that they might the more firmly establish their own. So far you will observe we have exerted ourselves in the arrangement of the Nabob's affairs, but it is a measure of the utmost consequence, since it lays the foundation of that tranquillity, moderation, and regularity, which will support the government against any future attempts (at) a revolution, and we are determined to interest<sup>?</sup> ourselves at the city in no other respect. I need only add, that Mr Sykes,<sup>9</sup> for whom we intend the Residentsip, is a gentleman from whose inflexible integrity, and long experience in the country politics, we have reason to expect the most exact performance of every duty in such an important station.

16 The regulation of the Nabob's ministry, the acquisition of the *dewannee*, and the honorable terms on which we have concluded a peace with the Vizier of the empire, have placed the dignity and advantages of the English East India Company on a basis more firm than our most sanguine wishes could a few months ago, have suggested. These, however, alone will not ensure your stability. These are but the outworks, which guard you from your natural enemies, the natives of the country — all is not safe, danger still subsists from more formidable enemies within, luxury, corruption, avarice, rapacity,

these have possession of your principal posts and are ready to betray your citadel. These therefore must be extirpated or they will infallibly destroy us for we cannot expect the same causes which have ruined the greatest kingdoms should have different effects on such a state as ours. That sudden growth of riches from whence those evils principally arise, demands our most serious attention. The affairs of Bengal however glorious and flourishing the prospect may now be cannot be successfully managed by men whose views extend not beyond a year or two and who will set all orders from the Court of Directors at defiance, well knowing they must have acquired an affluent fortune or at least a comfortable independency before resentment can reach them. A competency ought to be allowed to all your servants from the time of their arrival in India and advantages should gradually increase to each in proportion to his station but I would have few of them entertain hopes of returning to their native country till they shall have attained the rank of Councillor then the prospect should open to them and they should be certain of being enabled to return in a few years with independent fortunes. This certainty would arise from the freight ships from the privileges of trade (the advantages of which you are not unacquainted with) and also from the profits upon salt betle and tobacco agreeable to the new regulation which we have made in order to rectify the abuses that have been so long committed in those branches of trade to the great detriment of the country government without view of benefit to the Company

17 The regulation now established for the salt trade will I hope be entirely to your satisfaction. I at first intended to propose that the Company and their servants should be jointly and equally concerned in the trade itself but upon better consideration I judged that plan to be rather unbecoming the dignity of the Company and concluded it would be better that they should give the trade entirely to their servants and fix a duty upon it for themselves, equivalent to half the profits. This duty we have computed at the rate of 35 per cent for the present but I imagine it will be able next year to bear an increase. The articles of betle and tobacco being of less consequence and yielding much less advantage the duties upon them of course must be less. For farther particulars of these regulations,<sup>17</sup> I beg leave to refer you to the Committee letter and proceedings as I would not here trouble you with the repetition of a matter which is there so fully laid before you

18 The advantages proposed for the Governor and Council<sup>18</sup> would undoubtedly appear extremely large to those who are unacquainted with the riches of Bengal and the numberless opportunities which the Company's servants have of acquiring money. But you who are now perfectly informed of the revenues of these kingdoms and the prodigious emoluments within the reach of gentlemen high in the service will I am persuaded agree with me that if some plan of the nature proposed be not adopted the Governor and Council will not fail to acquire much larger fortunes by other means in a much shorter time which must always be productive of that quick succession not only so detrimental to your commercial interest but so totally incompatible with the acquisition of political knowledge which ought now to be considered as a very material qualification in all your civil as well as military servants. To obviate an objection which may arise that they may possibly proceed in the old way of procuring money without tanling they accept of these allowances

I would have an oath tendered to them of as strong and solemn a nature as can be penned I have drawn out the form of one agreeable to my idea of the expedient, and have the honor to enclose it for your consideration To this may be annexed a penalty bond of £1,50,000 to be executed by the Governor, and of £50,000 to be executed by each of the Council Thus the conscience of some will be awakened by the legal consequences of perjury, and pecuniary punishment will be a sure guard over the honesty of others Could the hearts of men be known by their general character in society, or could their conduct in a state of temptation, be ascertained from their moderate attention to wealth whilst the sudden acquisition of it was impossible, the proposal I make would be an affront to religion, and to morality, but since that is not the case in any part of the world, and least of all so in the east, we must for our own security impose such restraints, as shall make it impossible even for hypocrisy to introduce corruption

19 Having thus fully submitted to you my sentiments on the civil department, permit me to trouble you with a few observations on the military, which deserves a no less serious attention In the former part of this letter I have mentioned, that luxury and an abhorrence of subordination had overspread your army, but that the good effects of appointing field officers<sup>12</sup> had already become visible The Committee(s) letter will enclose a general return of their number, and enlarge upon the necessity of keeping each regiment complete to the establishment I therefore avoid saying any thing here upon those subjects That letter will also specify the proportion of emoluments proposed for the field officers from the new acquired advantages upon salt The same objection may perhaps be made to this, which I supposed was likely to occur with respect to the plan for the benefit of the civil servants If so, I beg leave to refer you to my proposal, and remarks upon that subject, which are equally proper and applicable to this These points then I conclude are sufficiently before you, and I proceed to recommend to your consideration that the regimenting of the troops has introduced a much larger number of officers of rank, than has hitherto been admitted upon your establishment and that this regulation, beneficial and necessary as it is will, notwithstanding, be productive of one dangerous evil, if not constantly guarded against by the authority of the Governor and Council, supported and enforced by the higher powers at home The evil I mean to apprise you of, is the encroachment of the military upon the civil jurisdiction, and an attempt to be independant of their authority A spirit of this kind has always been visible, our utmost vigilance therefore is requisite to suppress it, or at least to take care that it shall not actually prevail I have been at some pains to inculcate a total subjection of the army to the Government and I doubt not you will ever maintain that principle In the field, in time of actual service, I could wish to see the commander of your forces implicitly relied on for his plan of operations Orders from the Presidency may frequently embarrass him, and prejudice the service At such a time, he is certainly the best judge of what measures should be pursued, and ought therefore to be trusted with discretionary powers But he should by no means be permitted to vary from the fixt general plan of a campaign, nor from his own idea of the Company's interest to prosecute operations of importance, when they are not also of real utility and emergency I dwell not, however, entirely upon the conduct of a commander of the forces, as such, in the field He is to understand that upon all occasions a gentleman

in Council is his superior unless he also has a seat at the Board and then he will of course rank as he stands in that appointment. The whole army should in like manner be subordinate to the civil power and it is the indispensable duty of the Governor and Council to keep them so. If at any time they should struggle for superiority the Governor and Council must strenuously exert themselves ever mindfull that they are the trustees for the Company in this settlement and the guardians of public property under a civil institution.

20 It would give me pain to see a regulation so salutary as that of the appointment of field officers, attended with any inconveniencies, and therefore I would earnestly recommend the following very easy and effectual mode of prevention. Let the equality in civil and military rank be immediately settled by the Court of Directors. Were disputes about precedence the only points to be adjusted they would not be worth a moment's reflection but we are to consider that opportunities will sometimes happen when military gentlemen may assume power and authority from the rank they hold among the civil servants and perhaps pay no attention to orders issued from their supposed inferiors. Such contention may have disagreeable consequences, and to prevent them I propose that all the Colonels (the commander of the forces excepted who is entitled to the rank of 3d in Council) shall be equal in rank to the Councillors but always the youngest of that rank the Lieut Colonels should rank with Senior Merchants, the Majors with Junior Merchants captains with factors and lieutenants and ensigns with writers. The rank of all officers below Colonels and of civil servants below Councillors may be considered according to the dates of their commissions and appointments respectively. When such a regulation has taken place I think the appointment of field officers cannot be charged with a single inconvenience.

21 Before I quit the subject of the army I must repeat what if I mistake not I mentioned to Mr Rous before I left England the propriety of appointing Sir Robert Barker to the command of a regiment in case of a vacancy. On the death of Colonel Knox I hesitated not to appoint Sir Robert to the 3rd Regiment but it met with opposition not only from some of the gentlemen in Council but afterwards from Sir Robert Fletcher who thought himself aggrieved though at a time when Barker was a captain he was only a volunteer in your service and besides Sir Robert Barker must on all occasions as the elder officer have commanded in the field in the absence of General Carnac and Colonel Smith even if this appointment had not taken place. If I could imagine that his seniority in the service did not sufficiently entitle him to this preferment I would urge his experience which is greater than that of the other gentleman, and his disinterestedness which made him accept what is so infinitely inferior in point of emoluments to the command of the artillery. Lieut. Colonel Peach<sup>11</sup> has in like manner been objected to by the majors appointed by the Governor and Council but as it has always been customary to prefer officers of your own appointment to those of the same rank nominated by the Governor and Council I need not point out the propriety of your confirming this gentleman's commission. The introducing Lieut Colonel Chapman<sup>12</sup> also to that rank has met with the same objections. With regard to him permit me to acquaint you that he is a very old major in the King's service that he was simply solicited at Madras to continue there and on very advantageous terms when his regiment was ordered home but that I

found him at the Cape in his way to Europe, and it was with the utmost difficulty that Messrs Sumner, and Sykes and myself could prevail upon him to return to India, next in rank to Lieut Colonel Peach. His merits on the Coast have been very great and I consider him as a very valuable acquisition to your service. I therefore most earnestly request you will be pleased to confirm his appointment as Lieut Colonel on this establishment. Neither of these three gentlemen I have here spoken of can be censured for that spirit of licentiousness and independency, which I have pointed out as the great evils we ought to guard against and the variety as well as length of their services, will certainly be of considerable advantage to corps like ours. I must at the same time confess that I cannot be responsible for that discipline and reformation we mean shall take place, unless the field officers are men I can depend upon. Most of the captains now in your service, have had so little experience, and are I fear so liable to the general objection, that I could wish to have five or six captains sent out who have seen service, who understand discipline, and who are well recommended by their colonels. If you should think proper to extend this plan to majors, it will be so much the better, but there is no occasion to go higher. Among the appointments you may be pleased to make in England, I could wish to find a majority upon this establishment for Major Pemble, agreeable to the date of the brevet given him upon his arrival at this place. That gentleman has seen much service, both on the Coast of Choromandel, at Manilla, and at Bengal but being on the Bombay establishment, where the rise is so very slow, he has had the mortification to see himself constantly superseded by the Coast and Bengal officers. You may be assured I would not trouble you with this recommendation if I did not know him to be worthy of your notice.

22 The enquiries I have found myself under the necessity of promoting, the regulations which I judged proper should take place without delay, together with those I have here had the honor to propose for your mature deliberation, will I doubt not meet with that candid discussion, which the importance of the subject requires. You will be pleased upon the whole, to observe, that the great object of my labor has been (and it must also be yours) to stem that torrent of luxury, corruption, and licentiousness which have nearly overwhelmed the interest, and I might add, the existence of the Company in these parts, to reduce your civil servants to a sense of duty to their employers, and moderation in the pursuit of their own advantages, to introduce discipline, subordination, œconomy into your army, and to prevent in general that sudden acquisition of riches which is evidently the root of almost every other evil, both in the civil and military department.

23 Is there a man anxious for the speedy return of his son, his brother, or his friend, and solicitous to see that return accompanied by affluence of fortune, indifferent to the means by which it may have been obtained? Is there one, who void of all but selfish feelings, can withhold his approbation of any plan that promises not sudden riches to those, his dearest connections, who can look with contempt upon measures of moderation, and who can cherish all upstart greatness, though stigmatised with the spoils of the Company? If there is such a man to him all arguments would be vain—to him I speak not. My address is to those who can judge coolly of the advantages to be desired for their relations and friends, nor think the body corporate wholly unentitled

to their attention. If these should be of opinion that an independent fortune, honestly acquired in a faithful service of 12 or 15 years is more compauble with the interests of the Company than the late rapidity of acquisitions and at the same time satisfactory to the expectation of reason I will venture to assert that the regulations already made together with those proposed will when enforced by the authority of the Court of Directors ensure to the Company their commercial and political advantages and be productive of certain independancy to every servant who endeavors to deserve it

24 The general terms in which I have mentioned the depravity of this settlement oblige me to point out to your attention the instances, the very few instances of distinguished merit among the superior servants. To find a man who in the midst of luxury and licentiousness had retained the true idea of commercial oeconomy who inferior in fortune to most of your civil servants in the rank of Councillors, was yet superior to all in moderation and integrity whose regard for the welfare of the public and for the reputation of individuals has made him warn others from falling into the temptations of corruption which he saw were approaching and who could actually resist those temptations himself when a share was allotted him of money he thought unwarrantably obtained—to find such a man in such a settlement would appear incredible to those who are unacquainted with Mr Verelst.<sup>13</sup> I have represented this gentleman to you as I would every one in his real character and shall only add that if you wish to see the measures we are now pursuing supported with integrity abilities and resolution you will endeavor to prevail on him to continue in your service by appointing him to succeed Mr Sumner in the Government. To omit mentioning Mr Cartier would be injustice as he also stands high in my opinion. His character is clear and his attachment to your service what it ought to be unbiassed by any mean attention to his own advantages. I wish sincerely your list of superior servants would enable me to detain you longer on subjects of commendation, but I have finished the picture and I cannot add another figure that deserves to be distinguished from the group.

25 Having filled so many pages upon the subject of public affairs you will indulge me with a few lines upon a circumstance which concerns myself. Mr Johnstone in his last minute in Council has thought proper to throw out some observations upon the validity of my title to the *jaghire* insinuating that the defect which he pretends to have discovered was not known at the time of my litigation with the Company. As I would not wish that a point in which my honor is concerned should pass unnoticed I must observe that the King's *sunnud* which Mr Johnstone affirms was requisite to be obtained within 6 months from the granting of the *jaghire* for the confirmation of it is a matter of form only and not understood to be essential. As a proof of this I enclose translations of various *jaghire* grants properly attested by Mr Vansittart the Persian Translator as also an attestation of the same gentleman, that the grant to me was as complete as other grants of that nature generally are but to put this matter out of dispute the paper of agreement which Mr Johnstone alluded to is of no more consequence than a piece of blank paper since it was never executed by me or by any agent or vaquerel on my account nor was any agent ever named or thought of by me. Enclosed I transmit you a translation of the paper attested also by Mr Vansittart

26 Permit me now to remind you that I have a large family, who stand in need of a father's protection, that I sacrifice my health, and hazard my fortune with my life, by continuing in this climate. The first great purposes of my appointment are perfectly answered. Peace is restored, and my engagement to procure for the Company the reversion of my *jaghire* is completed in the fullest manner, since it is not only confirmed by the present Nabob, but by the Great Mogul. I now only wait to be informed, whether my conduct thus far be approved of, and whether the whole or any part of the regulations I have had the honor to lay before you, are conformable to your ideas of the reformation necessary to be established. If they meet with your approbation, I doubt not you will immediately empower me in conjunction with the Select Committee, to finish the business so successfully begun, which may easily be effected before the end of the ensuing year, when I am determined to return to Europe, and hope to acquaint you in person with the accomplishment of every wish you can form for the prosperity of your affairs in Bengal.

27 I shall conclude this tedious letter by observing that my anxiety to know whether you approve of my conduct or not, can proceed from no other motive than my concern for the public, since I continue invariable in the resolution I formed, and expressed in a General Court, long before the covenants were proposed, of acquiring no addition to my fortune, by my acceptance of the Government. and I beg leave also to assure you, that in order to obviate all suspicion of a collusion in this delicate point, I have not permitted either of the gentlemen of my family to hold an employment in your service, nor to receive presents, although they are not bound by covenants to the contrary. The small congratulatory *nazurs*, elephants, horses, &c. which I have been under a necessity of receiving, do not, I imagine amount to any considerable sum, but whatever it may be, not a farthing shall go into my own pocket. I have hitherto been too much engaged in matters of public importance to attend to a particular valuation, but I have caused an exact account to be kept of every, even the most trifling present, which at my return shall be submitted to your inspection, and in the mean time the amount of the whole shall go towards defraying my extraordinary expences as Governor. The only favor I have to solicit for myself, is, that although your treasury here will for the future be so full as to render it difficult for individuals to obtain bills upon the Company payable at home, you will be pleased to indulge me with the usual channel of remittance of my *jaghier*, untill it reverts to the Company.

I have the honor to be with the utmost respect,

Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most humble servant,  
Clive

To

The Honourable the Court of Directors

28 I cannot help requesting your attention to Mr William Wynne, a young gentleman whom I brought out to India with me, and whom I was in hopes of seeing appointed a writer on the list of that year. I have caused him to transcribe this letter, that you may see he is qualified in point of penman-



ship and as he has lived constantly with me and acted as assistant to my secretary I can take upon me to be responsible for his conduct and abilities in every respect. It is therefore my particular request that you confer on him the station of a writer to take rank from the time of his leaving England.

29 I beg leave also to recommend to your protection Mr Maddison a gentleman of a liberal education and who promises to be a very valuable servant to the Company from an uncommon facility in acquiring the Persian language. As he is 27 years of age you will not think me unreasonable in soliciting for him the appointment of a factor

Clive.

30th September 1765

[Per *Admiral Steevens*]

22

LETTER DATED 30 SEPTEMBER 1765

*Shipping news—restitution of French settlements in India—appointment of military officers by Lord Clive—acceptance of presents from country government prohibited—enquiry into the question of money received by the members of the deputation for the execution of treaty with Najmud Daulah—Lord Clive's complaint against Mr Burdett and the latter's resignation—Mr Sykes appointed Resident at Murshudabad in place of Mr Middleton—enlargement of the Council undesirable—regulation for conducting inland trade in salt betel nut and tobacco—question of regular payment to Commodore Tinker and his squadron of the donation money from Mir Jafar—acceptance by General Carnac of a present from Shah Alam recommended*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs

1 The ship the *Admiral Steevens* having been purchased to proceed to you a packet in consequence of a recommendation from the Select Committee we embrace the opportunity of transmitting to you by her some general necessary information since our last address of the 11th of March by the *Bute*

2 You were then advised of the arrival of the *Lord Anson* but that we had not as yet had any account either of the remaining transport the *Prince of Wales* or of the *Kent*. The former imported with us however as far as the 1th of April having for the purpose of refreshing her recruits put in at Salvador on the coast of Brazil and the Cape of Good Hope. This indeed retarded her but the consequences thereof were happily experienced by the people almost all of them having been landed here in perfect health. The *Kent* arrived also at Rio De Janeiro and the latter place and have at Lord Clive particularly directed put in afterwards at Port St George for a few days and landed at the request of the Lieutenant Colonel the recruits

board, about fifty in number arrived with us on the 3rd of May when his Lordship being accompanied to town by a proper deputation, took charge of the Government from Mr Spencer A letter of thanks was  
 Consn 3 & 6 May at the same time addressed to this gentleman for the regard he had shewn to the Company's affairs in continuing in the mean time to hold the charge, and on the return now of the proper season, he will proceed immediately to his station at Bombay Messrs Sumner and Sykes having also arrived, took their seats at the Board according to their appointment

3 We have only yet this season had the honor of your commands of the 21st of November last by the *Tilbury* which ship imported at Fort St George the 25th of July The *Horsendon* and *Royal Captain*  
 16 July *tain* arrived there also the 23rd and 24th of June and we since learn, proceeded on their destinations for China the 19th of July, the *Tilbury* being to follow them about the beginning of this month We have not received any intelligence of your other expected ships on this side but we are apprized from Fort Marlbro' that the *Thames* and *Grosvenor* imported with them on the 20th June and 4th July

4 We have further the pleasure to acquaint you with the safe arrival of the *Earl of Middlesex* at Fort St George on the 27th of May from Fort Marlbro' and Batavia having been under the necessity of returning to the last port after an unsuccessful attempt to gain her passage against the northerly monsoon, and as this ship was now on high demorage, the gentlemen thought it would be for the interest of the Company to return her to Europe and resolved to keep her accordingly for their first dispatch We have been informed from Fort Marlbro' of her having landed with them from the French Islands the remainder of prisoners of war who were left there and chose to return

5 The *Caernarvon* sailed from Fort St George on the 28th of March and the *Asia* having been dispatched from Bombay on the 13th of April to call on the Coast for timbers and plank there provided for us,  
 Consn 16 Apr 3rd June arrived here the 3rd of June We were at the same time advised that the *Calcutta* and *London* were under dispatch for Europe from that Presidency, and of the departure of the *York* and *Talbot* from Tellichery for Canton on the 30th of April From Fort St George we learn that the *Duke of Gloucester*, *Duke of Richmond* and *Earl of Elgin* bound likewise to that place, were at Batavia by the last advices they received from thence dated the 27th of April, the *Argo* frigate with the consignment of treasure to the supra cargoes having sailed by the Pitts Passage on the 29th of January, and from those gentlemen we are informed under date the 4th of March of the arrival with them of the *Princess Augusta* on the 12th of January and that she was then under dispatch to you together with the *Earl of Lincoln*

6 Having taken immediately under consideration your advices, with those we had before received from the gentlemen at Fort St George and Bombay and from Canton with respect to the ships which would be  
 Consn 18 July on hand this season and attending to the state of our investment and other necessary circumstances, we thereupon formed a disposition of them which is entered for the sake of reference after our proceedings, and you will please to observe, that besides this packet carrying a cargo chiefly of

fine goods and the *Earl of Middlesex* under dispatch from Fort St. George we expect to provide for five from this side vizt to the *Pacifick Grenville Pons bourn Falmouth* and *Speke* of these the former will proceed to that Presidency in the month of December with a supply of saltpetre which they have requested may not be less than 200 or 250 tons, as the *Earl of Middlesex* would take off most of what they had on hand to be from thence returned home in February The three following vessels certainly return direct from hence fully laden and we hope our investment will enable us to send you the remaining one also but if this should not be the case we purposed employing her to carry the annual supplies from here and Fort St. George for Fort Marlbro and then proceed on to China to be returned to you in the season of 1766/7

7 The great assistance which the gentlemen at Bombay received from us last season in the article of saltpetre and what we mean to supply them with this at least 25,000 maunds, will we expect enable them to return home the four ships consigned to their side as well as the *Kent* of last year which we shall immediately send round to them her late arrival having prevented her proceeding last season we also intend returning thither the *Asia* leaving to that Presidency her further disposal either by dispatch to Europe or providing her with a stock and sending her to be returned from China in the following season

8 This plan we must observe is made upon the supposition that the *Falmouth* comes out on the same terms and footing as the rest of the ships, in which case we conclude it may stand good but if on the contrary she is an old vessel for sale in India we can forward home the whole of our investment by increasing the bale cargoes of the other three from the usual proportion of one thousand or twelve hundred bales to fourteen or fifteen hundred and least any accident should happen to either of those we shall defer the dispatch of the *Asia* till the beginning of November when we hope to be upon a certainty and shall determine accordingly

9 The consignments to the supra cargoes at Canton for the service of this season are so very considerable including the remittance of ten lacks of rupees made to them by the *Argo* and what the gentlemen at Fort St. George advise us they have sent them by the *Tilbury Horsendon* and *Royal Captain* being pagodoes 3,57,231,668 that they will be able to return home all their ships and the three of last year beforementioned to be at Batavia as well as the *York* and *Tallot* from the Malabar Coast with cargoes to the full stipulated amount in your present commands of £30,000 for each and upon a computation from their advices have afterwards remaining in their hands a large ballance near 170,000 £ Sterling in order to begin their investment for the following year

10 Having thus considered the subject we gave immediately the necessary advice to the gentlemen at Fort St. George and Bombay

11 On the arrival of the *Kent* the former Presidency borrowed from Mr. Smith to assist in making up their consignments to the supra cargoes the quantity of 33,000 of Spanish silver to be paid him here at the valuation in our mint making Arct 9943 79 We afterwards upon their representation that the gentlemen at Batavia depended upon them to comply at the stock for the *Tallot* at 11 sh

was deficient near five lacks of rupees, offered to assist them therein by drafts as far as four lacks, and if the *Asia* should as we at present  
 28 Do intend, proceed to Bombay, we shall, in case of her after unavoidable destination to Canton, make further provision for this branch of your commerce by a remittance of two or three lacks of rupees. We must here add that we pay due attention to your fresh instructions and commands respecting it, and shall on all occasions afford it every assistance in our power.

12 Reckoning upon the *Asia's* proceeding to Bombay accordingly, she is now receiving 400 tons or 12,000 maunds of the proposed supply of saltpetre and we have also shipped on the *Kent* 100 tons or 3,000 maunds. We have likewise supplied that Presidency with money since our last advices, to the amount of above five lacks of rupees, and shall continue honoring such further drafts as they may make on us either by immediate payment or interest bonds, which they advise they shall leave to option in the terms on which they grant them.

13 The *Bute* did not receive the dispatch from Ingellee till the 25th of March owing to very tempestuous weather and other difficulties and impediments in receiving on board the latter part of her cargo, after all 280 bales and chests were returned to town, beside 79 bales, which we are sorry to mention were lost in one of the sloops as she was waiting to deliver them, making together tons 64 10. These Captain Maitland afterwards represented to us he was unable to take in on account of the detachment of troops we had put on board the ship and the large quantity of baggage they had carried with them, for which we had refused to make him any allowance of tonnage. But we beg leave to refer you for a full relation of all the circumstances to his letters and the Master Attendant's and Export Warehouse Keeper's reports entered on our Consultations of the 25th March and 1st and 4th of April, upon the last of which you will also particularly observe a protest and counter protest on the occasion from the Master Attendant and Captain Maitland, together with our remarks and sentiments, and we shall here only add further that the returned bales and chests are now sent you by the *Admiral Steevens*, marked as we directed with the letter B to denote in distinction from the rest of her cargo, their having been intended for the *Bute* as also the Warehouse Keeper's account of them and the lost bales referred to in his reports.

14 We mentioned to you in our last address from the Secret Department the arrival of Mr Law, the French Commissary on the Coast, and we are now to inform you that having received the restitutions to be there made to that nation, he proceeded to Bengal and on the 15th of June was put in possession of Chandernagore by Mr George Vansittart whom we appointed upon this occasion, Commissary for His Britannick Majesty, having afterwards advised us of the nomination of his deputies for receiving the subordinate settlements at Sydabad, Dacca, Jugdea and Balasore, the necessary appointments were also made on our part and the two first places have been accordingly restored. We have yet heard nothing concerning Jugdea, and with respect to the Balasore factory some objections have occurred upon its not being in the condition required by the terms of the treaty which have prevented its being yet made over, Mr Law has, however, now given his orders for its being received in its present state, leaving those circumstances to be adjusted between us upon further accounts from our respective commissaries. He has further set forth

the title of the French Company to two spoils of ground at Singhia and Chuprah near Patna which we have advised him should in like manner be restored upon his appointment of a person to receive them. We transmit in the packet for your inspection copies of the Act of Restitution of Chandernagore <sup>1</sup> those for the other places being the same with only the necessary alteration of terms.

15 Upon the occasion we received a representation from Mr Law touching the inconveniences and difficulties the French Company would be exposed to from our direct adherence to the terms of a treaty which  
 21 June restricts them from erecting fortifications or entertaining any troops in these provinces accompanied by the copy of an answer on the subject the original whereof he had before communicated to Lord Clive, which the Minister for the India Affairs had on his departure from France received from the Secretary of State. He therefore expressed his hope that we would be induced to allow them a small number of armed Europeans and seapoys with a few pieces of cannon and a proper lodgement to which they might retire in case of any surprize from the country people assuring us particularly that he meant not to elude in the least by this application the effect of the conditions of the treaty

16 Having properly considered the same we agreed with a reserve to ourselves of the right of withdrawing the terms whenever we might have reason to apprehend an improper use of them to permit one officer  
 Com n 21 June twenty European infantry with one hundred seapoys to be entertained at Chandernagore and fifty of the latter at each of the subordinate also to allow them a wall at Chandernagore such as they formerly had at Cawimbuzar and twenty pieces of cannon not of a heavier weight than 6 pounders for the purpose of salutes on the usual occasions which would at the same time fully answer the end of imposing a proper respect on the country people We further agreed to allow them five artillery men for working these guns and having communicated our determination to Mr Law we received his thanks in the name of the nation for the same and a further assurance that no improper use would ever be made of any indulgence we might grant them

17 Having also received an application from him soliciting a supply of eight or nine thousand mounds of saltpetre on the same terms as the Dutch to assist in completing their cargoes from hence and their  
 Com n 15 Jul other settlement and finding by our advices from Patna that our investment this season would enable us without any inconvenience to comply therewith we agreed to spare them accordingly the last mentioned quantity and gave orders for their being furnished with seven thousand mounds immediately and the remaining two thousand in the month of December remarking however to Mr Law at the same time that no right to any part of this branch of commerce was from hence to be established though we should always with equal readiness assist the Company when it could be done with the same convenience

18 Immediately upon the arrival of Lord Clive we proceeded to fix the appointments of the field officers agreeably to the establishment in virtue of the  
 Com n 1st Jun 1764 martial of the 1st of June 1764 and General Carn and Col. Smith were in consequence stationed in the 1st and 2nd battalions

19 The command of the 3rd being vacant by the death of Major Knox, it would of course have devolved to Sir Robert Fletcher, but Lord Clive informed the Board that although Sir Robert Barker was only mentioned in the letter as commandant of the artillery, he knew from what had passed between him and some of the gentlemen of the direction respecting the appointments, that it was the intention he should have the choice of succeeding to the command of one of the battalions in case of a vacancy and being at this time desirous of having the 3rd, it was agreed to appoint him thereto accordingly

20 Sir Robert Fletcher became in consequence Lieutenant Colonel to the 1st battallion and it was also agreed to promote Major Peach to the 2nd till the point of priority in rank between him and Major Champion was determined by your answer to the applications made to you respecting this gentleman and Sir Robert Fletcher

21 Proceeding then to the 3rd appointment of Lieutenant Colonel, Lord Clive further informed the Board that on his arrival at the Cape, he found there on his passage to Europe, Major Charles Chapman of His Majesty's 79th Regiment, and Messrs Sumner and Sykes with Colonel Smith and Barker represented to him that as the number of field officers was not compleat according to the establishment an opportunity offered in their opinion of doing the Company great service by introducing that gentleman as one, having on account of his particular merit been solicited by the President and Council to remain at Fort St George in the command of their troops under General Lawrence which although we had declined, he was willing to come to Bengal with his Lordship, provided he had rank next after Major Peach That he joined in sentiment with those gentlemen and brought the Major here accordingly under such a promise and his Lordship therefore proposed he should have this appointment, not doubting in the least your confirmation thereof

22 Some debate passed at the Board on this occasion upon which his Lordship informed them that in virtue of the power vested in him, for which he referred to the 36th paragraph of the General Letter he should certainly grant the commission in question but would wish to have their concurrence and desired the sentiments of the several members might be collected, which you will find recorded accordingly on the proceedings and Major Chapman was appointed the third Lieutenant Colonel

23 Majors Champion and Stibbert and Captain Hugh Grant were afterwards appointed the Majors to the three battalions, and in consideration of the long and faithful services of Capt Christian Fischer, and  
 Consn 28 May as the former objection to promoting him was now removed by the appointment of so many officers of superior rank a Major's brevet was also granted to him

24 Before Colonel Smith proceeded to join the army, we received a representation<sup>2</sup> from him touching his appointments at this Presidency, setting forth that he was positively assured he was to succeed to  
 Consn 28 May all the same both civil and military which General Carnac now holds in the service, and expressing therefore his surprize at finding himself on his arrival, precluded from the former by the 10th paragraph of your beforementioned letter which expressly says that after the death or departure of the General, no officer shall have a constant seat at the Board without your

leave but only when military affairs are under consideration We beg leave to refer you to the representation itself of which a copy is transmitted in the packet and we request your orders in answer taking at the same time the liberty to offer it as our opinion to you that the commanding officer of the troops should upon all occasions have a seat at the Board

25 The Select Committee agreeably to your appointments was also formed directly upon the *Kent's* arrival Their powers were therefore communicated to our subordinate factories and to the Presidencies of Fort Con n. 6 May St. George and Bombay and the necessary directions given in consequence to the former to obey all orders which they might receive from them and the Committee have from time to time laid before the Board such of their proceedings as they judged advisable and proper

26 The covenants which you were pleased to send out regarding the acceptance of presents from the country government not having been at this time subscribed to this, was the subject of their first consi Consn. th May deration and they thereupon communicated to the Board their opinion that the same should be immediately executed in the form prescribed by the members of the Council and all other servants of the Company which was conformed to accordingly by the members present and the Secretary was ordered to prepare and transmit sets for the several other gentlemen both in the civil and military Those to the former have been all returned duly executed as well as the greatest part of the latter But the distance the army has been from us and the officers being variously dispersed has occasioned some trouble and delay in getting these completed and we wait the remainder of them to forward to you the whole together

27 The next proceedings which the Committee laid before the Council contained their resolution for enforcing immediately the Board's orders with { } 0 May respect to the return of the European agents from up the country granting them a further indulgence of two months to the 1st of August which was afterwards prolonged to the 21st of October publick notice of this resolution was accordingly [sic] in consequence whereof we understand many are arrived in Calcutta and we shall take care that the rest return also in due time

28 Their subsequent proceedings for some time were on enquiry into the circumstances of some sums which had been received from the present Nabob and others by the gentlemen who composed the deputation for the execution of the treaty with his Excellency on the 1<sup>st</sup> of June & 15 of decrease of his father is Messrs. Johnstone Senior Middle- J 1<sup>st</sup> 4 June & 15 of ton and Leicester as also by the other members at the Presidency Messrs. Spencer Playdell Burdett and Gray We beg leave to refer you to the proceedings themselves on this subject and to the several minutes and defences entered thereupon the registers of Council and of the Committee and request your sentiment and determinations on the whole We have only here to notice to you in particular that Mr. Johnstone has in consequence and for other reasons set forth in his minute resigned your service and proceeded home by this opportunity

29 At our Consultation of the 24th of June last Mr. Clark entered a representation and complaint against Mr. Burdett for having in his office of

Zemindar confined, and detained after application for his release, a *ghaut-manjee*,<sup>4</sup> or over-secr of boats, employed by his Lordship on Consn 24 June, the occasion of intended expedition up the country to take upon him the command of the army and settle affairs with the powers in those parts, Mr Burdett not being present at this meeting, an order was immediately issued to him for the man's enlargement and his answer to the same, having been received, assigning the reasons for his proceeding which did not appear sufficient, and conceived in terms esteemed disrespectful to the Board, they determined that he should make a proper acknowledgement both to Lord Clive and themselves, his Lordship at the same time took leave of the Board to proceed in the business before intimated,

30 Mr Burdett complied afterwards with this determination and his Lordship having desired to be acquainted therewith, it was accordingly communicated to him but Mr Burdett entered a minute on Consn 3 July 22nd Do the stile of his letter, in consequence whereof further proceedings occurred, and these being likewise transmitted to his Lordship, we received an answer from him confirming the opinion he had before given of that gentleman's conduct, in terms, which determined Mr Burdett having intimated his intention of returning this season to Europe to sit no longer at the Board and he also resigned your service accordingly

31 Lord Clive has since delivered in a minute setting forth that he cannot accuse himself of having given cause for the resentment expressed by Mr Burdett, and his opinion concerning his resignation Consn 9th Sept referring to a letter from Raja Doolubram to Mr Sumner when President, in respect to a note of hand<sup>5</sup> for a sum of money which he represented he had given to Mr Burdett upon the Nabob's accession to the government under the promise of his endeavours, to procure him a share in the administration, which he had not fulfilled and therefore soliciting Mr Sumner's assistance for the recovery thereof Of this minute and letter Mr Burdett has had a copy and we expect his answer

32 Lord Clive having arrived in town and resumed his seat at the Board the 9th instant, laid before them an extract from the proceedings of the Select Committee held the 7th upon his return, accompanying the Consn 9th Sept copy of a treaty of peace concluded by him and General Carnac on the part of the Hon'ble Company and the Nabob, with Shuja doula, together with the translation of a grant and *sunnuds* obtained from the King for the *dewanny* of these provinces and an agreement subscribed to in consequence by the Nabob through the means of his Lordship and Mr Sykes, as also translations of other *sunnuds* from the King confirming to the Company their former possessions and securing to them the reversion in perpetuity of My Lords *jagheer* For this last his Lordship had before

Consn 15 July on his way up, obtained the Nabob's *sunnud* in duplicate one of them to be forwarded to you if we judged it proper which is accordingly transmitted in the packett with an attested copy of the translation We also send you like copies of the several papers above mentioned to which we beg leave to refer you and to offer you at the same time our hearty congratulations on this happy event of the return of peace, which we hope and have now all reason to expect from our established influence and power, will in future be



un interrupted. The same was proclaimed here in proper form on the 12th and ordered to be also published at the subordinates.

33 At the Consultation of the 9th of June, Mr Sykes entered a minute informing the Board that the Select Committee had ordered him to proceed to Murshedabad\* on affairs of importance which would be communicated to them when the proceedings were drawn up and that he should set out accordingly without loss of time. Messrs. Leycester and Gray dissented upon this occasion not being able to judge either of the object of Mr Sykes commission or the necessity of his appointment and as Mr Middleton a member of the Board was already stationed President [sic] at the Durbar to transact whatever points of business might occur with the country government had acted in that capacity to the entire satisfaction of the Council and could not be superseded without a reflection on his ability to conduct such business. The proceedings were afterwards laid before the Board when those gentlemen confirmed their dissent esteeming Mr Middleton still the proper person to transact the business entrusted to Mr Sykes and upon Mr Middleton's

Consn. 18 July receiving intimation from the Select Committee of this appointment he addressed the Board as appears on Consultation the 18th of the same month setting forth how much it must lessen the weight and influence which it was absolutely necessary he should maintain in his station and that he could not therefore with any credit to himself remain any longer in it, more especially as Lord Clive had told him on his way up that it was intended to remove him shortly and place Mr Sykes in his stead and soliciting in consequence Chiefship of Patna, which had become vacant a few days before by the sudden decease of Mr Billers. To this he was accordingly appointed and ordered by the majority to proceed immediately delivering over to the Chief of Cosimbuzar the management of such business as he had been entrusted with from the Board. Mr Sumner being the only member of the Committee then present minuted at the same time a declaration on their part that no reflection whatever on Mr Middleton nor derogation from his necessary weight and influence as public Resident was intended by them and produced the copy of the letter wrote him on the occasion setting forth the impropriety of charging any other than a member of the Committee with the management of business which had not been disclosed to the Council as an agreement for his satisfaction. Mr Sykes having proceeded conformably to his deputation he returned to the Presidency with Lord Clive.

34 Mr Verelst upon being called to Calcutta to take his seat in the Committee resigned the chiefship of Chittagong factory in which Mr Playdell succeeded him. And upon the resignation of Mr John  
Consn. 4th June stone he was appointed by the Committee to the charge of supervision of the Burdwan revenues

35 At the Consultation of the 22nd of July a motion was made by Mr Burdett for filling up the vacancies in Council from Mr Johnstone's said resignation and the death of Mr Billers agreeably to your last appointment and orders. Upon which Mr Sumner informed them that the Committee had already taken the subject of those orders under consideration and should determine on them at their first meeting upon the return of the absent members to the Presidency and therefore desired that the filling up of the vacancies might till then be suspended the majority of the Board entering

their opinions that the matter should not be deferred and proposing accordingly to call to the Board the two next gentlemen on the list Mr Sumner dissented thereto in his own and the name of the Committee, reserving to them a revisal of the measure, but the majority confirming their opinions, Messrs Francis Charlton and Thomas French, the two next servants were in consequence ordered from Dacca to take their seats

36 Upon the assembling again of the Committee, Mr Sumner related to them accordingly what had passed at the Board, and they recorded their sentiments thereon offering at the same time their reasons for

Consn 16 Sept not enlarging the number of the Council which latter were first, that the collection of the Burdwan revenues should no longer be managed by a chief and council but as proposed in a representation to them from Mr Verelst at the same time communicated to the Board by a junior servant residing always on the spot, and a supervisor who, if a member of the Board, might still retain his seat, as such his charge would only require an occasional attendance, secondly with respect to the business of the Midnapore province, that it was not of sufficient consequence to require the direction of a member of the Council and might be as well conducted by a junior servant, and thirdly their having under consideration the recalling the factory at Benaris in consequence of the treaty concluded with Shuja Dowla Upon which different circumstances, they recommended the Board to reconsider the appointments of Messieurs Charlton and French We beg leave to refer you to the proceedings of the Committee for those sentiments and a particular explanation of their reasons for the proposed changes respecting Burdwan and Midnapore, as also to the opinions of the several members of the Board thereon and shall here only add that the majority being of opinion the first alteration should take place and the members of the Board joining with the Committee as to the latter, the appointments of the new members were in consequence set aside and orders given to the factory at Dacca accordingly Mr Leycester however, entered a minute confirming his opinion against a reduction in the number to which we further refer you

37 We received a letter from Lord Clive during his absence at Benaris representing his opinion of your title to a moiety of the mony obtained there

[19?] Augt by our army in consequence of the deed of gift from the King to the Company of such proportion of all plunder and which should be taken in India by his forces on land and your orders putting their own military upon the same footing and reserving to them the other moiety, he at the same time pointed out as an argument the stipulation in favor of the Company of one half of what should be taken at Manilla, esteeming it a similar case with the one now in question and referred the subject to the consideration of the Board

38 It appearing on reference to the registers of Council before his Lordship's arrival that the Board considered the said money as a voluntary gift from the merchants rather than a ransom for the town obtained by military force, and that for the reasons assigned they thought proper to consent to the army's receiving it without reserving any claim to the Company We did not think this being the case that a demand on them for a share of the money could now with any propriety be made and we communicated these

our sentiments accordingly in answer to his Lordship transmitting for his particular information extracts of those registers *vizt*

Of the letters to the Commanding Officer of the 6th November and 6th December last and

Of the Consultation of the 3rd January upon an application received from the officers and men of the 76th Regiment and His Majesty's Marines to which we beg also to refer you on the occasion.

39 Upon his Lordship's return to the Presidency he informed the Board that while he was with the army he had formed it upon the establishment and plan laid down in your commands of the 1st of June 1764 and purposed for the better regulating their pay in future and the prevention of any abuses that there should be separate paymasters with deputies and a commissary to each brigade. The Board agreed with him entirely in the propriety of those appointments and the pay masters were accordingly nominated the other offices remaining to be fixed at a future meeting

40 The Select Committee having taken under consideration your orders touching the inland trade in the articles of salt beetlenut and tobacco they communicated to the Board in their next proceedings a set of regulations formed thereupon as the ground work of a plan for carrying it on in future we beg leave to refer to proceedings themselves for your particular information of this plan and have hereto informed you that Messrs. Sumner Verelst Leycester and Gray were in consequence constituted the Committee for receiving charge thereof and managing it on behalf of the body of proprietors with authority to correspond with the subordinate factories and to pursue all such measures as might conformably thereto appear to them eligible and that the necessary advice and orders were given accordingly and publication made prohibiting all persons dependant on the Company's Government from entering into any new engagements in those articles unless as contractors with the Committee for the purchase or sale of them We have also to notice to you that Messrs. Leycester and Gray dissented to the authority the Select Committee had taken upon themselves on this occasion esteeming it in no wise delegated to them by the terms and intention of their appointment and that the subject should have been considered and determined on in Council.

41 The Committee of Trade having entered upon the prosecution of the plan we have received from them a representation for having the Society secured against any innovations, in the course of their present engagements and soliciting from us such a deed as we might think sufficient to insure to them the exclusive right to the trade till those engagements are concluded the same to be renewed every season so long as it shall be agreeable to you that the plan should subsist. We could not but agree with them entirely in the propriety of this measure and having given directions for drawing accordingly such writing as may be thought sufficient to secure to the present propriety the right in question and we are now to request your permission to renew the same for the future concerns if the plan meets with your approbation.

42 Commodore Tinker having received from the late Salub Meer

Jaffier a grant of 12,50,000 rupees as a donation to himself and the squadron under his command,<sup>8</sup> for their services in the war against Meer Cossim, he presented to the Board on departure a translation of the same and requested their assistance in procuring regular payments conformably to the terms, to which the Board replied expressing their satisfaction at the Nabob's having thought proper to

consider the services of the squadron and assuring Mr Tinker that so far as it might appear to them in his power consistently with the performance of the engagements of his treaty, the Commodore might depend on their compliance with his application. Two of the periods of payment having expired and no part been yet received, the agents have now addressed us enclosing the translation of a letter from the present Nabob with a confirmation of his father's grant, and soliciting our interposition for procuring them the amount due, representing with a view of adding weight to their application that many of the officers and men of the squadron having contracted debts during their abode in Calcutta, their drafts on the donation had upon the strength of the Board's promise been accepted in discharge thereof by merchants of the place whose private fortunes had already suffered and must suffer still more by any further delay of payment

43 This representation having been considered and debated on, the majority of the Board were of opinion the *dewanny* of these provinces, and the agreement thereupon made with the Nabob by which after the stipulations for the King and his Excellency, the remaining part of the revenues devolves to the Company, they could not of themselves determine upon the subject but that it should be referred to your decision, and the circumstances being accordingly thus stated to you, we wait your answer and orders thereon

44 The ships *Lord Anson* and *Prince of Wales* having been reported clear of their consignments on the 29th of April and 24th of June, they were immediately dismissed your service and their journals and other books of their voyage, required conformably to your orders to be returned to you, the same are transmitted you by this opportunity and we have discharged the ballances of freight remaining to be paid the owners in India as per their respective accounts received in the packets. We have also reimbursed the commanders for sundry necessities provided in the course of their passage, for the use of the recruits whom they brought out *vizt* to the former CRs 1,98,957 and to the latter CRs 9,044-6-0, both accounts being properly vouched and certified

45 The *Solebay* one of the two ships taken up last year for furnishing your Presidency of Fort Marlbro' with slaves from Madagascar having concluded her voyage, arrived with us on the 22nd ultimo and we received by her a packet from the President and Council, under a general address to either of the three sentiments, enclosing several papers respecting her in consequence of a demand made on the commander upon account of the owners for the sum of £2,500 advanced them in England which he refused payment of. These papers they therefore transmitted pointing out particularly to the observation of those who might receive them, that your instructions to them were very explicit, although the charter party appeared rather defective in the wording, that if it appeared eligible, an attempt might be made to recover the money by course of law. We perused and examined the different papers but not

choosing to proceed upon our judgement in a case of this nature, we referred them to the attentive consideration of an attorney in the Mayor's Court Mr Richard Whittall who we understood was most capable and versed in his profession requiring his sentiments at full whether or not there was sufficient ground on which to found a prosecution here on the occasion and having received an answer from him stating his opinion in the affirmative we have ordered him to repeat the demand in due form and upon a refusal still of payment to commence an action against the owner accordingly

46. We send you further the General Books of this Presidency with their  
 Consn. 16 Sept. subsidiaries to April 1764 and hope from the Sub-Accomptant's report to forward to you the subsequent sett in the course of this season having upon his application some time ago wrote in very urgent terms on this subject to the subordinates. The entire loss of their books and accounts at some of them in the late troubles has unavoidably occasioned great delay in bringing them up

47 We are to advise you of the decease of Capt. Alexander Scott our Master Attendant on the 12th ultimo and of Captain Page Keble's succession  
 Consn. 15 Augst. to the charge of that office agreeably to your nomination on this occasion. We received a petition from the Deputy Mr Richard Dean representing his long services to the Company in the different gradations of the marine which he hoped had fully qualified him for the appointment and soliciting it accordingly He was advised in answer that Capt. Keble had obtained it in pursuance of your orders, with an assurance however that we had a just sense of his services and should take care to make proper mention of him to you and we beg leave therefore to recommend him to your notice

48 Mr Robert Hunter whom you have this season been pleased to appoint a factor on the Fort Marlbro establishment having some months before come over to this Presidency had on account of his particular merit and abilities in the profession, been entertained by us as one of our principal surgeons. On being therefore advised of your appointment he delivered in a letter to us representing that it was obtained entirely without his knowledge and intention while he was detained on the French Islands and six years after his first application and having then quitted the place with leave from the President and Council and upon his admission into the service here had from a dependence of continuing in it entered into connections and concerns with others whose interest must suffer and ruin attend his own by a speedy removal. He for these reasons solicited our permission to relinquish that appointment and be continued in his station here expressing at the same time his just sense of the favor and honor thereby conferred on him for which he returns you his grateful thanks and his hope that in consideration of his misfortunes and long services you would not be displeased with his proceeding. From this representation and the character before given of him we could not but very readily acquiesce in his desire and as we are extremely solicitous of his continuance with us we hope for and earnestly entreat his confirmation here accordingly

49 We further beg leave to you for an appointment on your list of civil servants Mr Sutton Banks a gentleman who has for a long while resided

in the place as a private merchant, much esteemed, and is entirely deserving the favor we solicit for him

50 Captain George Burghall of the Corps of Engineers, having been accused by Captain Martin, his superior officer, of disobedience of orders, he in consequence of the opinion of a court of enquiry underwent a tryal by a court martial Appointed and approved by Major Munro before his departure, at which having been found guilty of the charge, he was cashiered the Company's service by the sentence of the court, and he proceeds home with his family by this opportunity Major Munro carried with him the proceedings of the court martial

51 You will find the reasons of the Select Committee in which the Board acquiesced, for the purchase of the *Admiral Stevens* on the occasion of this dispatch, and not employing the *Lapwing* which still remained upon our hands recorded on the Committee proceedings of the 21st of June and 4th of July, and the season now opening we shall forthwith determine on some method of employing or otherwise dispose of her as may appear most eligible The Board previous to the arrival of the *Kent* has had some intention of sending her to Fort St George to return to you with early advices from thence and this Presidency

52 Upon a report from the Master Attendant of the condition and value of the *Admiral Stevens*, we agreed to pay for her at the price demanded by the owners of 59,000 Arcot Rupees, and Captain Griffin who we advised you, had quitted the *Lapwing* to proceed to Fort St George on his private concerns, having returned to this place, we gave him the command of her appointing

No 118 & 119 upon proper recommendations, Messrs James Angus, James Lenox, Edward Wilson and Robert Fairful, her officers We at the same time wrote to Cossimbuzar and Dacca to send us down from each factory for her 100 bales of their finest piece goods, and we have the satisfaction to find she carries you upon the whole considering her size, a valuable cargo the amount being as per invoice Crs [ ]

53 With a view to encrease it as much as possible, we determined upon  
 Consn 26 Augst an application from the captain and officers on the subject  
 allowance in the tonnage, of the sum of 10,000 Arcot Rupees and the same  
 Consn 2nd Sept having been accepted we required from them an acknow-  
 ledge- ment of it with an obligation not to ship in consequence  
 thereof any merchandize as adventures

54 We have also given in charge to Captain Griffin 1600 ounces of foreign silver for the use of the ship in case she should be under the necessity of  
 Consn 9 Sept touching at any place, and advanced him the sum of  
 ARs 3,918-4-0 on account of four months impress of himself, officers and Europeans, his table allowance for the voyage and usual *batta* on this account from his appointment to this time

55 Since writing the foregoing we have received advice from the gentlemen at Fort St George of the arrival at that place of the *Grenville* and *Fox* on the 6th and 7th instant, the former having touched at St Jago and False Bay from whence she sailed the 21st of July and lost there by desertion 13 of her recruits besides 12 buried on the passage But we are sorry to learn

at the same time the long detenuon which the *Speke*, *Pacifick* and *Ponsbourne* met with at Spithead from contrary winds. We hope, however they took the opportunity of sailing about the same time as the *Fox* and that we shall soon have some accounts of them in these parts. We now find by your advices to that Presidency of the 4th of January that the *Falmouth* is not to return to you but only taken up for the run to India to assist in bringing out our recruits. Those gentlemen expected to give the *Earl of Middlesex* her dispatches about the end of this month and at their request we transmit you a copy of the invoice of provisions put on board her here for victualling the prisoners from the French Islands, that the commander may account with you for the same. We also forward a packet received from them to your address with one from the gentlemen at Fort Marlbro The *Buckingham* having concluded her destination to that place we understand is likewise arrived at Fort St. George.

56 The Mint Master having laid before the Select Committee a representation setting forth the inconveniences resulting to the Company and the publick from the stop put to the issuing of new *siccas* and the difficulties and danger consequent on any attempt to a general recoinage or abolition of the annual fall of the *batta* on *sicca* rupees, the same has been referred to us and is at present under our consideration. He has now presented an address to the Board with separte statements of the mint for a year before and after he took charge of it and the assay book from the latter time to which he referred us for an explanation of the advantages arising from the regulations proposed by him in the month of January and at his request we transmit you in the packet copies of those different addresses, as also the assay book and copies of the statements accompanying the last to the Board that by referring them to and consulting the Tower Office you may be perfectly satisfied of the nature of the improvements he has made and how far his appointment to the direction of the mint has answered expectation.

57 The members of the Select Committee have entered a minute in reply to Mr. Leicester's beforementioned confirming his dissent to the diminution of the Council. Messrs. Leicester and Gray have also on their parts delivered in other minutes upon the sentiments recorded by the Committee on their conduct and Mr. Burdett's in not conforming to Mr. Sumner's desire upon the same subject. Mr. Leicester a further one touching the powers of the Committee to which last they have informed him they shall reply to you in their own department and Mr. Gray another in consequence of imputations laid to his charge before Lord Clive which he has desired may be enquired into before the Board and his Lordship has acquainted him shall be communicated accordingly. You will find all these recorded on the proceedings of the 25th instant and we beg to refer them with the rest to your perusal and consideration.

58 We have also received an answer from Mr. Burdett to Lord Clive's minute upon his resignation and the letter referred to in it from Rajah Dolubram confirming his first reason assigned for quitting the service at the time he did and declining to answer to the demand from Roy Dolub till he should be first informed what punishment would be inflicted on him if he should prove him guilty of a falsehood upon which his Lordship has minuted that he has not leisure at present to reply but will do it fully by the next ship.

59 Upon perusal of the draft of this letter, Lord Clive remarked on the circumstance mentioned in Mr Middleton's address to the Board quoted in the 33rd paragraph, that he did not tell him as there related, it was the intention of the Committee to remove him shortly and place Mr Sykes at the Durban in his stead but only that this gentleman was soon to proceed to the city on particular business from them

60 The Select Committee have laid before us a copy of their proceedings containing their conclusion of the plan for carrying on the inland trade with respect to the Company and the classes of proprietors, and the same has been delivered over to the Committee for managing the same with instructions to proceed conformably thereto

61 General Carnac having declined receiving a present from the King as he had not the consent of the Governour and Council, His Majesty has written a letter to the Board, representing that the General has always refused to accept any reward for his great services, that to permit him to remain unrewarded is injurious to his royal dignity and that it is therefore His Majesties [sic] pleasure that we do grant General Carnac permission to receive from his royal bounty the sum of two lacks of rupees

62 You are so well acquainted with the merits and moderation of this gentleman that we need not add our sentiments on the subject. The great attention and respect he has always paid to the King from the time of His Majesty's misfortune when he surrendered himself at Patna, to his present state of peace and affluence together with the attachment shewn to him on many occasions in the field, demand some return of gratitude. We trust, you will rejoice that an opportunity should at last offer of placing General Carnac in a state of independency at the eve of a long and faithful service

63 There being some doubts whether the power of permission on such is intended to be lodged with the Governour and Council, we have not absolutely granted it but refer it to you and should be glad of your instructions for our guidance in future. We beg leave only to observe that such power would perhaps be a means of keeping the military in proper subjection to the civil authority in this settlement

64 Mr Peter Downes having some time ago requested permission to resign his offices in order to prepare for his return to Europe, has now resigned the service and proceeds by this ship

65 The Mayors Court have presented to us a list of several law books wanted for the use of the Court, which they request may be sent them out by the first opportunity, and the same is transmitted you in the packet

66 We have only further to add that the necessary papers respecting this ship are enclosed. And wishing her a safe and speedy arrival with you, we have the honor to remain with respect,

Fort William,  
the 30 of September 1765  
[Original per *Admiral Stevens*  
Duplicate per *Grenville*]

Honble Sirs,  
Your most faithful and  
obedient, humble servants



*Postscript*

1 Since concluding this address it has occurred to us that we are much in want of several printed sets of the Act of Parliament for the punishing of mutiny and desertion among your troops here with which we request you will furnish us accordingly by the first opportunity

2 At our Consultation of this day for the dispatch of the ship Mr Leicester entered a further minute respecting the present which he received from the Nabob when on the deputation to him Mr Gray recorded one likewise on the same subject as that mentioned in the 57th paragraph upon certain imputations laid against his charge which he requested might be enquired into to both which we beg as before to refer you. And we remain with respect

Fort William  
the 30 of September 1765

Honble Sirs  
Your most faithful and  
obedient humble servants

23

## LETTLR DATED 28 NOVEMBER 1765

*Reinforcement of the Council by civilians from Madras—incompetence of most of the members of the Council—state of the treasury—request for support from home*

**T**O the Honorable the Court of Directors

Gentlemen

1 I embrace the opportunity of a ship being under dispatch for Bussora to make known to you such occurrences as have happened here since the sailing of the *Admiral Stetens* on the 9th of last month in hopes it may arrive in time for us to receive your commands by some of the latter ships of the year 1766

2 The resignation of Messrs Senior Burdett and Gray and suspension of Mr Leicester has reduced us in Committee to the necessity of desiring the gentlemen of Madras to spare us Messrs Russell Aldersey Kel all and Flower who we propose shall give us their assistance in Council until your pleasure be known

3 To enter into particulars would take up too much time and might be imprudent in a dispatch of this nature I shall therefore only repeat what I have already had the honor of representing to you that luxury extravagance and corruption together with an independant way of thinking and acting have arisen to such a height in this settlement that the most vigorous measures are absolutely necessary and if you gentlemen do not strengthen my hands by approving the steps we have taken particularly by confirming the Madras gentlemen in the posts to which we have appointed them and by entrusting me with sufficient powers I am convinced that the service I may have rendered the Company by my acceptance of this Government will be in many respects

of a very short (duration when) my back is turned The measures hitherto proposed and pursued for the attainment of that reformation which must take place have been strenuously supported by Messrs Carnac, Verelst and Sykes General Carnac intends resigning the service and accompanying me to Europe Messrs Verelst and Sykes are highly deserving of every encouragement that can be offered to prevail upon them to continue in this country Not one of the gentlemen next in Council even so low as Mr Bolts<sup>1</sup> (Mr Rumbold excepted) is worthy a seat at the Board, many of them are deficient in abilities, and all in principle, and as to the gentlemen of lower standing, they are not only too young, but too strongly tainted with the corruption of late times to be so soon entrusted with power The only measure therefore that can ensure stability to the plan of Government and reformation which I have been laboring to establish is the appointment of the Madras gentlemen and the limiting (I do not mean curtailing) the advantages of future Governors, together with a power lodged somewhere, to nominate the members who shall compose the Select Committee, after my departure

												state	of
4	I	can	now	with	the	greatest	pleasure	inform	you	that	the	9579	7453
the					treasury <sup>2</sup>							revenues	
9897	30353	30575	6585		is	such	and	the	8938	8939	5935		of
the	country	since	the	acquisition	of	the	<i>dewannee</i>						
3787	9400	9897	93	7453	9897	381	6	40	82	50	1250	6	6
	flowed	in	so	fast									draw
have	5057	5900	9469	4959	that	we	shall	not	through	necessity	4507		
upon	you	for	a	rupee							send	£	
30538	9946	5077	8	8895	although	we	have	determined	to	9065	9953		
300,000	this	year	to	China									
5770	9949	12	7939	9943	30750	9978	3457	The	returns	for	coral		
									amount	to	five	or	six
and	small	bills	drawn	upon	you	for	necessaries	may	443	9978	5034		
laaks													
7495	9409	6466											

5 The refusing to grant bills will undoubtedly throw large sums into the hands of foreigners particularly of the Dutch (Some words illegible — as immoderate riches acquired Copt) \* 9897 4553, 543 5857 have been lately 93 But I do not think we can be justified in wantonly drawing upon our employers 9978 amount of several hundred thousand pounds while we 9897 443 7453 9097 5770 9949 7939 30663 have more cash than is sufficient 30634 5643 6938 3358 9894 9697 to answer every purpose of the Company However as the acquisition of fortunes will not be so rapid remitting the money in future some method may be fixed on for the 8663 7453 6903 servants so much benefit to our rivals by your 9083 without 9469 6963 778 9978 7555 8846

\* Copyist's note in the copy available in the National Archives of India

6	In the course of the ensuing year we shall certainly	pay
off upwards of	thirty laaks	7696
7454	30544	609
debt	7453	9940
	6385	6466
	of the	3589
		35
		36
		50
38	3948	

7 By this conveyance I shall only further add that it is my resolution to adhere firmly to the true interest of the Company in these parts notwithstanding the odium I undergo in the pursuit of impartial and disinterested measures. Permit me gentlemen to hope that whilst I am framing and carrying into execution such regulations in every department abroad as I am convinced are essentially and immediately requisite you will not be insensible to the danger of their being soon relaxed and perhaps totally neglected unless supported and enforced by the strictest orders from home.

8. If what I have done be approved and by the authority of the Court of Directors rendered incapable of being subverted by my successors, I shall return from the laborious accomplishment of your wishes and expectations with the fullest satisfaction.

I have the honor to be with the  
greatest respect  
Gentlemen

Calcutta  
28th November 1765  
[Overland]

Your most obedient and most  
humble servant  
(Signed) Clive

24

## LETTER DATED 29 JANUARY 1766

*Proposal for making sicca rupees of fixed value injurious to the Company—request for arms and more European recruits—relinquishment of four districts contiguous to Patna to the French to avoid dispute—French and Dutch complaints of English obstruction in their investment—Burdett's resignation—suspension of Leicester from service—Gray's resignation—erection of fortifications at Chittagong abandoned—expediency of having cantonments and headquarters at Patna Monghyr and Cossimbabar*

**T**O the Honble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Honble Sirs

1 Having in our letter by the *Admiral Steevens* advised you of the arrival of the ships *Lord Anson* *Prince of Wales* and *Kent* we must request your reference for particulars to that dispatch being now too much pressed for time to enter into a minute detail reasons for which shall be assigned in our next advices by the *Pomfret*

2 We now have the honor to enclose a duplicate of that letter to which we also beg leave to refer for information respecting the several occurrences at

this Presidency, from the dispatch of the *Bute* to that period Yet notwithstanding the hurry of business prevents our taking a retrospective view in the usual form, of the proceedings of the whole year, we flatter ourselves that the subsequent recital will give you a clear and satisfactory sketch of the present situation of your civil affairs

3 Your commands by the *Grenville* were received on the 15th day of October last, when we immediately dispatched the necessary orders in consequence to the different gentlemen employ'd in providing your investment The cargoes now shipped on the *Grenville* and *Kent*, as well as those prepared for the *Pacific*, *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson* evince that no attention hath been wanting on our part to comply with your instructions

4 The *Asia* we have sent round to Bombay with a cargo consisting of 7850 maunds of saltpetre, and we have made it our request to that Presidency either to extend her voyage to Canton with the four laaks of rupees we shipped on board for the purpose of your China investment, or to dispatch her directly for Europe, as may be thought most conducive to the service

5 The *Grenville*, now dispatched will convey to you 1058 bales, 9080 maunds of saltpetre and 900 maunds of red wood As to the *Pacifick*, our orders direct that she shall touch at Fort St George to receive on board the remaining investment of that Presidency, and also to accommodate General Lawrence with a passage to Europe, as he has intimated to the President his intention of returning this season In this ship we send six laaks of rupees to be forwarded from Madrass to China by the first conveyance, and also a cargo of 7660 maunds of saltpetre and 900 maunds of red wood

6 The *Speke* will immediately proceed to Bencoolen with stores and 25 chests of opium for that Presidency and six laaks of rupees for the supply of your China investment, being first ordered to stop at Madrass to take on board such additional stores as the gentlemen there may think proper to send to Bencoolen, from whence we expect she will be dispatched directly for Canton

7 As the cargoes for the *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson* are already in great forwardness, we hope to dispatch them likewise within the time limited by charter party We shall have occasion to mention in the course of this letter the number of bales remaining in the ware house and our expectations from the factories and *aurungs*.

8 It is necessary we observe, that the sum we proposed furnishing for the China investment is now fully compleated and dispatched in the following manner *vizt*, four laacks in the *Asia* by the way of Bombay, six laaks in the *Speke* directly for Canton, six laaks in the *Pacifick* to be lodged at Madrass until an occasion offers of carrying it to China, two laaks in the *Fort St George*, four laaks in the *Bengal Merchant* and two laaks more in the *Carlisle*, country vessels, to be also deposited at Madrass, in all 24 laaks which we hope will enable the gentlemen residing at Canton to secure a large and valuable investment by means of the early advances

9 By a letter we lately received from your supra cargoes, we understand that the remittance made last year from hence, by the *Argo* frigate, proved extremely seasonable and usefull to the provision making this season We have likewise the pleasure to acquaint you upon the same authority, that Captain Affleck, commander of the frigate, behaved with a moderation and prudence

highly beneficial to your affairs which we hope will prove no way injurious to his own interest. The Chinese refusing to admit the *Argo* as a King's ship, on account of her carrying treasure for the Company insisted that Captain Affleck should pay duties as a merchantman pleading that the *Centurion* could not be regarded as a precedent since she carried nothing on board and put in for refreshment only. This argument they urged with so much obstinacy that unless Captain Affleck had prudently yielded to its conviction your ships might probably have returned without their cargoes or been detained another season.

10 By a letter dated the 25th June 1764 which the President received from Mr Dawson Drake, we learn that the *Admiral Pococke* is happily arrived in China after escaping a variety of dangers. Having lost her passage to Europe and 22 of her crew she put into the port of Touron in Cochin China in great distress for water and provisions, and remained there for the space of six months and eleven days, the natives treating the passengers and seamen with the greatest humanity. On the 31st of May 1765 the day before the Captain proposed sailing Mr Drake with eleven more of the passengers and crew were attacked by several thousand of the King's troops. They stood on their defence and in the tumult that ensued two of your servants Messrs Fyfe and Nodes Mr Orandan a Spanish gentleman and his daughter lost their lives.

The ship was afterwards attacked by several galleys but without success and it is imagined that either revenge for the death of a native murdered by the ship's crew or some intimation of the treasure on board was the inducement to this perfidious attempt.

Mr Drake proposed taking his passage on a Portuguese ship to Madras.

11 As we had no immediate service for the *Lapwing* packet and that she was unfit for the purpose of your small vessels in this country we have thought it advisable to dispose of her for the sum of 14500 current rupees as you will perceive by the Master Attendant's report entered on the Consultation the 25th November.

12 Besides the quantity of saltpetre already specified we are to observe that we shipped in the *Admiral Steevens* 3000 maunds of that article and also 750 bales and 900 maunds of red wood. In the *Lord Anson* 8000 maunds of saltpetre were sent by the way of Bombay and in the *Diana* we sent round 8000 maunds more to be transmitted by that Presidency or disposed of as they should judge expedient to your interest.

13 By consulting the articles of disbursements from the treasury and also the *auring* accounts from the 1st of May 1760 to the 22nd January 1766 you will see the several advances made in order to procure a considerable investment for this season. It appears from the following statement made to us by the Export Ware House Keeper that the cargo of the *Admiral Steevens* amounted to 79100 rupees which we imagine must have proved very acceptable as it will probably arrive in time for your sales in March and also as you were disappointed of great part of the bales intended for the *Bute* which could not be received on board for the reasons assigned in our last address.

14 In the *Cremille* we have shipped a cargo valued at 837190 rupees and the *Kent* carries goods amounting to 85865 rupees the total by the three ships making 749115 rupees.

15 At present there remains in the ware house 1007 bales, and we have reason to expect an immediate supply of 1193 bales from the factories and *aurungs*, but should we even be disappointed in a part of the latter, there will still be sufficient to compleat cargoes for the *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson*, so that the whole investment of the year will amount to thirty seven laaks

16 From the *aurung* transactions above mentioned, it appears, there now remains an outstanding ballance of 7,69,712-2-9 besides the advance of 8,30,000 rupces already made towards the ensuing investment, and as we are now preparing to make farther very considerable advances, we have the fairest prospect in view of a large encrease

As to the particulars of package and tonnage, we beg leave to refer to the accounts of the Export Ware House Keeper inserted in the packet

17 You will perceive a deficiency in the Cossimbuzar investment, notwithstanding it still far exceeds the provision of any former year This Mr Senior ascribes to the difficulty which the Board had in making advances of money at the proper season to secure the contracts, and also to the bad quality of the latter *bunds*

We cannot however help giving it as our opinion that the deficiency arose in some measure either from the neglect or dishonesty of the factory *gomastah*, who retained in his own hands part of the money he was directed to advance the weavers to secure their contracts and enable them to fulfill their engagements Mr Sykes and the other gentlemen of that subordinate are now exerting their utmost endeavours to repair the loss, whence we entertain hopes, the disappointment will prove inconsiderable

18 It is with satisfaction we observe the prospect there is your books will be brought up in the manner you enjoin Those ending in April 1765 are now in great forwardness and shall if possible be transmitted by the latter dispatches The Subacomptant representing to us how much it would assist the business of his office if printed bonds were sent out with vacant spaces for the names, sums and dates, to be occasionally filled up, we enclose a form of the same in the packet, and request your compliance with a proposal that will certainly facilitate the current business

19 The Mint Master's accounts delivered in to the Board since the *Admiral Steevens* was dispatched bring the books of that department up to the first day of January 1766 We now transmit in the packet the sequel of the assay and mint accounts compleat for the space of fourteen months, whereby you will observe the great encrease of coinage and of duties arising to the Company, as well as the advantages resulting to the investment and to individuals from the improvements in the dispatch and accuracy of the business

20 In consequence of the Mint Master's memorial to the Select Committee, referred to the Board and transmitted by the *Admiral Steevens*, we have also directed that the *batta* on *sicca* rupees shall continue to fall annually, in the usual manner, being fully persuaded by the reasons there assigned, that the proposal for making *sicca* rupees of permanent value, would prove injurious to the Hon'ble Company and dangerous to publick credit

21 So much depends on our receiving due supplies of arms, that we most earnestly request you will comply with the Military Store Keeper's indents

which go in this packet. We are also to beg you will pay the utmost attention to the quality of the ordnance and small arms sent to this Presidency since almost all those lately received were so badly tempered as not to bear a single proof. Several of the cannon even the brass guns, and all the mortars burst at the first discharge and we may affirm that the barrels and locks of the small arms are of the basest composition and workmanship. When you reflect that on your attention to this circumstance depends the security of the great revenues you now enjoy we hope we will stand excused for repeating our desire that a matter of such serious consequence may not be overlooked.

22. The accompanying general return will demonstrate the reduced condition of the European infantry. The supply of recruits this and the last season fall greatly short of expectation on account of the mortality on board the *Lord Anson* the tedious passages made by the other transports and the non arrival of the *Hector* and you are equally sensible with us of the great danger of resting our whole dependance on seapoys and the necessity of keeping those troops in awe by a respectable body of Europeans. Permit us therefore to entreat of you that the establishment may be completed agreeably to the plan settled before Lord Clive's departure from England.

23. It would be unnecessary to enter upon the particulars of your exports last season since you will find every thing fully explained in the different accounts transmitted from the import ware house and also the reparation for deficiencies made by the commanders.

24. Our last dispatch advised you of the amicable manner in which we adjusted the several articles of restitution with Mr Law Commissary General in India for his most Christian Majesty. This gentleman hath since made application to the Board for four small districts contiguous to Patna which formerly belonged to the French Company and as these are certainly included in the meaning of the treaty and the claim properly attested we relinquished them without scruple being desirous of removing every cause of altercation and dispute with the European settlements in Bengal.

25. It must however be observed that our endeavours sometimes fail of producing the desired effect. The investments provided by the different nations ever have been and ever will remain the subject of mutual complaints and recrimination. The French and Dutch having both lodged repeated complaints that obstruction was given to their people by your servants residing at the *darungs* to superintend the cloths we wrote to those gentlemen upon the subject and may now venture to declare not only upon their positive affirmation but on the testimony of the *gomastahs* themselves, that almost all the complaints are frivolous and ill founded. No interruption has ever been given nor violence used with the weavers further than obliging them to comply with contracts made before a single rupee had been advanced by either of those nations. In fact it appears the Dutch used their utmost influence to seduce the weavers by extraordinary prices to transfer to them the very goods bespoke and paid for by our agents.

26. We must likewise remark that the Dutch in particular seem to regard with a jealous eye our flourishing situation in Bengal and listen with too much attention to every trifling matter of dispute between their agents and our asserting our exertion of authority a variety of circumstances attending

accident, and the well known disposition of the people of this country The gentlemen stationed at the *aurungs* have the most positive orders of the Board to take no other advantage than what naturally flows from their making early contracts and advances of money Not the slightest proof appears of their deviating from our instructions, and indeed the very large investments made during this and the last season sufficiently evince that the Dutch could not have suffered greatly from the impediments they alledge, and may possibly set forth to their constituents with many aggravations

27 To obviate all disputes about the article of saltpetre, we delivered to the Dutch agents perhaps a larger proportion than we ought *vizt*, 58,474 maunds, which we hope will be considered as undeniable evidence of the strict attention paid to your orders and the desire we have to promote a cordial friendship Certain it is, the two nations might live in the most uninterrupted amity were the example we give of moderation followed by them in the parts of India where they maintain a superior influence

28 How much the conduct of the Governor and Council at Malacca hath deviated from that justice necessary to a good understanding appears from their violent seizure and illegal confiscation of the cargoes, to the amount of 68 chests of opium, of the *Cornish* and *Neptune* snows, vessels which sailed from this port on trading voyages to the eastward The particulars of this extraordinary proceeding are explicitly set forth in the letters from this Presidency to the [Governor] General of Batavia, copies of which with the several relative evidences, we now transmit From these you will perceive that we could not avoid making such remonstrances, without sacrificing the duty we owe to the rational character, your interest and the trade of this settlement, to the tame inclination of remaining passive under every injury and indignity

29 Mr Spencer after delivering the Government in charge to Lord Clive, remained here in a private station, untill the month of October, when the favourable season returned for his departure to Bombay, pursuant to your orders Before he embarked he wrote to the Board, presenting a claim to the commission of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on the Company's first acquired lands from the time he commenced President to his Lordship's arrival, and this claim appearing to us conformable to your instructions, we issued upon that account from the treasury CRs 8933-13-8, being the sum certified by the Accountant to have arisen during that period

30 The same gentleman having likewise submitted to the Board, whether the usual allowance to the President of 2,000 Rs per mensem should not be continued to him, we also directed the same should be advanced for the month of May only, as Mr Spencer held the station of President a few days of that month, but we thought ourselves not authorized to extend the allowance beyond that period of time

31 We also took this occasion to acquaint the Presidency of Bombay, at Mr Spencer's desire, that we would duly comply with such drafts as the Mocha supra cargoes should find necessary to complete their investment in coffee

32 You are already advised of Mr Burdett's resignation on pretence of ill treatment from the President, notwithstanding he long before declared his intention of returning to Europe in consequence of having acquired a very



opulent fortune. The enquiry regarding the *teep* for 90,000 rupees which he received from Doolubram to secure services which he never performed you will perceive is necessarily suspended by reason Mr Burdett refuses in very express terms answering to the authority of this Board.

He now requests a passage in the *Kent* and we have complied with his desire leaving you to determine from what appears in the face of the Consultations whether Mr Burdett has actually received the ill treatment he represents. Whether Doolubram hath not a just claim to restitution of his conditional obligation. And whether the President could in duty to his station avoid taking notice of Doolubram's complaint and accusation?

33 From the opinions delivered in Consultation of the 28th October you will observe the reasons for which we thought it necessary to suspend Mr Leicester from the service. These reasons will further appear from the following resolution of that day.

"Resolved that the Minute delivered in by Mr Leicester on the 18th Instant is a most gross and injurious Reflection upon the Honor and justice of our Consultations. That all the Assertions and Insinuations therein contained relating to the Establishment of Military Power in subversion of our Laws and Constitution are false scandalous and malicious and that a Paragraph expressing our Abhorrence and Detestation of the same be inserted in our next General Letter to the Court of Directors."

In the above paragraph we shall only beg leave to add that had Mr Leicester conducted himself with any tolerable degree of moderation in his avowed opposition and had he avoided a behaviour the most faction and seditious, he might at this instant be exerting in your service that vehement zeal which he professes to entertain for your honor and interest.

34 A few days after Mr Leicester's suspension Mr Cray thought proper to resign your service for such reasons as he assigns in a remonstrance containing of 90 pages in folio which he delivered in to the Board since the ships were under dispatch. When you have patiently perused that angry expostulation we then appeal to your judgement whether we could in duty to our constituents delay your cargoes until we had replied to every charge dictated by the passion the prejudices and the resentment of this declamatory memorial.

Examine the evidences delivered in upon oath before the Board—Reflect upon Mr Cray's leaving the country before he has offered to refute or invalidate them and then determine whether Mr Gray has accumulated the handsome fortune he now enjoys by the gradual advances of fair trade the toil of industry and the reward of services performed to his masters or rather whether he hath not obtained very large sums and nearly to the amount of his whole fortune by unwarrantable act of violence by forbidden and illicit presents and by the undue exertion of an authority always injurious to our interest because it is destructive of the tranquillity and happiness of the country?

We are further to remark that notwithstanding the whole proceedings of the Board relative to the enquiry have been delivered near a month ago to Mr Cray he has yet made no reply whence we are prevented from coming to any resolution and as the proceedings have swelled to an enormous bulk

we beg leave to transmit in the packet an abstract of the particulars fully proved upon oath, the truth you may prove by reference to the proceedings themselves

35 Some months since Mr Senior desired our permission to return to the Presidency with a view of preparing for his intended voyage to Europe, upon which we appointed Mr Sykes to his station at Cossimbuzar. During his residence here Mr Senior attended the business of the Board, and now resigns the service, taking his passage on the *Grenville*, as do likewise Messrs Leicester and Gray

36 Those testimonies which their faithful services merited, we cheerfully bestowed on the Captains Swinton and Stables, who have desired leave to resign. The former of those gentlemen goes passenger in a French ship, the latter takes his passage in the *Grenville*. We are also to acquaint you that the Captains McLean, Scotland, Brown, Whyte, Hudson and Lieutenant Rowe have been permitted to resign, and propose returning by the next opportunity that offers of a passage to England

37 As we imagine it would conduce to the benefit of your affairs to admit gentlemen into the service, who by long residence in Bengal have acquired a knowledge of the country, we beg leave to recommend Mr Grant to such station or employment on your civil establishment, as you may judge the most suitable to his advanced years, his confessed experience and his long services in a military capacity

38 Captain Henry Wedderburn determining to return to Europe, we think it incumbent on us to recommend him to your particular regard, in consideration of the very essential services he has done the Company, more especially in course of the late war with Cossim Aly and Sujah Dowla, during which he had the direction of the several expeditions by water, all of which he conducted with great courage and ability. We likewise take this opportunity of requesting a station on your civil establishment to Mr Charles Wedderburn, nephew to the above gentleman. He was for some time employed in the Secretary's office, and is now recommended to us as well qualified for your service

39 When the last ship was dispatched, the multiplicity of affairs in hand, would not permit us to come to any resolution respecting the charge of neglect brought against Mr Lacam, Muster Master on the new works. We have since enquired very particularly into that gentleman's conduct and character, both of which are so unexceptionable, that we cannot in justice to him avoid repeating what has been often recommended, that you will promote him on your civil establishment, in reward of the sobriety, diligence and integrity he hath shewn during the course of four years spent in your service

40 The writers mentioned in your appointment for the present year are all arrived except Mr Purling, who obtained your permission to go round by the way of China. They are placed in the different offices and many of them conveniently lodged in the barracks of the New Fort, whereby they are eased from the burthen of a heavy rent charge at a time when the growing number of inhabitants hath raised that article to a most unreasonable and

exorbitant expence. We must likewise observe that your increased influence and revenues in this country hath so widely extended the nature of business, that we find it absolutely necessary the number of junior servants for this establishment should be considerably enlarged.

41 From the Consultations it appears that a great variety of promotions were made in consequence of the resignations and also of your orders for a new arrangement of the military establishment. In granting commissions, we paid all possible regard to the character and capacity of the several gentlemen promoted most of whom have been very particularly recommended as men of merit or had distinguished themselves in the station of volunteers. In a word it is our desire that the officers should be entirely composed of persons of education of honor and of ability.

42 At the request of the Presidency of Bombay we sent back the *sepoys* and *topasses* of that detachment but detained the European soldiers on account of the great deficiency in the number proposed to be maintained at this Presidency. In the *Solebay* went 117 *sepoys* for whom we advanced to the commander of the ship at the rate of two Arcot rupees per diem for three men and two rupees each to the surgeon. The *topasses* were sent round in the *Isia* we making the usual allowance of  $\frac{1}{2}$  rupee each day to Captain Ingh.

43 Captain Martin the Chief Engineer encloses in the packet the usual report of the progress made in the new works, which have already incurred an expence far beyond expectation and more than adequate we fear to their utility.

Upon receipt of your orders we relinquished all thoughts of erecting fortifications at Chittagong and confined our views solely to the constructing a factory for the convenience of your servants and investment. We have lately received a letter from the Chief and Council wherein they offer it as their opinion that ware houses will be quite sufficient with respect to which we have yet come to no final resolution.

44 Taking into consideration the expediency of erecting cantonments and establishing headquarters at Patna Monghyer and Cosimbuzar for the greater security of the provinces and facility of sending off detachment to assist in the collection or suppress such tumults as may arise in different parts of the country we referred the same to the judgement of the field officer. Their sentiment appear in the Consultations and we have accordingly directed Captain Martin to proceed forthwith to Cosimbuzar to superintend the works intended in that neighbourhood which we expect to complete at the expence of 2 or three lacs of rupees at the highest estimation. Those at Patna we compute will amount to nearly the same expence but at Monghyer little more than repair and a few addition will be necessary.

45 The very inconvenient situation of the Chief and Council at Patna since the demolition of the factory by Com Ali determined us to convert the *Kella* into a factory house for the greater security of your investment as well as the convenience of your servants. The Nabob has now removed from thence with his family and we expect the Chief will take possession in a few days. But here we think it necessary to remark that we never proposed to

incur the expence of building regular fortifications, but only to render the place defensible against slight and sudden attacks

46 The Master Attendant having represented to us the great inconvenience of sending the Company's vessells round to Bombay to be repaired, and the advantages which would accrue to the Company and the publick from culling a ship and making ways for heaving small vessells above high water mark, we thought the proposal so usefull, that the Chief Enginecr was directed to suvey the spot of ground recommended for this purpose His report to the Board is, that it can be attended with no detriment either to the old fort or the new works, and we have accordingly directed the plan to be executed with all possible dispatch

47 Upon the Zemindar's representation, we have also advanced to the amount of 6,000 rupees towards the building a cutcherry, under direction of Mr Fortnom, the Civil Architect

48 We communicated to Mr Chammier his appointment to the direction of the raw silk investment, for which he requests your acceptance of his grateful thanks, but applies to the Board that he may be indulged with an allowance of two months to compleat a scheme in which he is engaged at a considerable expence

49 We are further to acquaint you, that upon the Select Committee's recommendation, we thought it advisable to recall the member of the Board Resident at Midnapore, and to appoint Mr John Graham to transact the business of that province, under direction of Mr Verelst, nominated Supravisor of the Revenues by the Committee, and approved by the Council

50 Before we close this address, we think it necessary to inform you, that private letters to this Presidency bring advice of the *Argo* frigate's arrival at Malacca, after sustaining a violent gale of wind in which she carried away her main and mizen masts The same letters further acquaint us, that Capt Biron arrived safe at Batavia, having made his passage round Cape Horne

51\* We must also beg leave to recommend to your encouragement and protection Gerard Gustavus Du Carel<sup>1</sup> a young gentleman who had inadvertently signed the remonstrance from the junior servants, but on recollection thought proper to request his name might be erased from just sense of the impropriety of his presuming to pass judgment on the measures of those who are entrusted by you with the administration

Fort William,  
29th January 1766  
[Original per *Grenville*  
Duplicate per *Kent*]

We are with the greatest respect  
Honble Sirs,  
Your faithfull humble servants,  
Clive / Wm Brightwell Sumner / John  
Carnac / Harry Verelst / Francis Sykes /  
Hugh Watts

\* This paragraph is missing from the other copy

Register of bills of exchange per ship *Grenville* @ 2s./4d. and 365 days

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£ sterling</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs As Pe</i>
John White	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
William Clutterbuck	500- 0- 0	John Maggot	4285-11 6
John Robinson	500 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
George Scott	500 0- 0	Robt Bogle and Wm Scott	4285-11 6
Geo Scott Acct. Jas. Nicol	300 0- 0	James Nicol	2571 7 0
Barthow Plaisted	200- 0 0	Thomas Burnet	1714- 4 6
John Nollekins	500- 0- 0	James Forster	4285-11 6
Thomas Lewis	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
John Adams	50- 0 0	Eleanor Adams	428- 9- 0
Thomas Woodward	500- 0- 0	Marmaduke Williams and the Revd Mr Jno Woodward	4285-11 6
James Rees	500- 0- 0	Charles Dingley	4285-11 6
Reynold Thomas	500- 0- 0	John Maggot	4285-11 6
Anthony Polier	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285 11 6
John Fortnom	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285 11 6
Pitt Lethcullier	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285 11 6
Peter Gallopine	500- 0- 0	Daniel Gallopine	4285 11 6
Charles Blomer	500- 0- 0	William Ferguson and Susanna Perreau	4285 11 6
Wm Brightwell Summer	1000- 0- 0	The Revd Mr Robt Sum- ner Culling Smith and Wm. Birch	8571 7 0
Hugh Baile	500- 0 0	Himself	4285 11 6
Richard Wills	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Robt Burrel Acct Arch- bald Keir	500 0 0	Cilbert Bertram	4285 11 6
Do Acct Andrew Wil- liams	151 4 0	George Dunbar	1796 0- 0
William Richardson	500 0- 0	Charles Dingley	4285-11 6
Jacob Ruler Acct Wm Walker	60 0 0	William Walker	514 4 6
Robert Todd	250 0 0	Himself	2147 13 9
Robert Todd	250 0- 0	Himself	2147 13 9
W B Sumner in full for coral imported per ship <i>Kent</i> 160	1408 8 0	George Wilson Acct George Thompson	11214 13 9
Ru ell Skinner Acct	700 0 0	John Zephaniah Holwell	1714 4 6
Sarah Maplet of	186 4 0	Mary Bodley	1796 0 0
Do Acct Mary Bodley			
Do Acct I ate James Hampden	795 0 0	Thomas Tydd	2528 9 0
Do Acct Wm Smith	145 0- 0	John Frake	1747 13 6
Do Acct Mary Rowland	500 0 0	Mary Rowland	4285 11 6
Do Acct Thos Ruml'd	90 0- 0	Mc rs Nettleton and Becher	4285 11 6

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£ ster-g-s-d</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs As Pe</i>
Do Accot Mary Bradley	40- 6- 6	Mary Bradley	345-10- 3
Do Accot John Cox	372-19- 9	John Cox	3196-12- 9
Do Accot Isaac Sage	500- 0- 0	John Sage	4285-11- 6
Do Accot Estate Saml Howet	500- 0- 0	Mrs Elizth Gosling and Ann Susanna, Sarah and Maria Howet	4285-11- 6
Do Accot Benjn Wild- ing	280- 0- 0	Benjamin Wilding	2400- 0- 0
Thos Forbes Junr	500- 0- 0	Thos Forbes Senr	4285-11- 6
Thos Cooke	371- 9- 8	Himself	3184- 2- 0
Do	120- 0- 0	Himself	1028- 9- 0
James Scotland	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11- 6
David McKenzie	300- 0- 0	Henry Davidson	2571- 6- 9
Ditto	200- 0- 0	Himself	1714- 4- 6
William Majendie	500- 0- 0	Revd Mr Majendie	4285-11- 6

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£sterg s-d</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs.AsPe</i>
Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full return for one chest of coral beads marked I L No 5 imported per ship <i>Caernarvon</i> 1764	455-19 5	Judah Supino	3908- 5 3
Messrs Johnstone and Petric Attos to John Johnstone	1000- 0 0	Samuel Hannay Saml Swinton and Jno Grant	8571 7 0
James Easter	500- 0 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Russell Skinner account Geo Williamson	500 0 0	Mrs. Alice Forster and Maximilian Western	4285 11 6
Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full return for jewells imported per ship <i>Hazke</i> in 1761	400 7 11	Messrs Gumpertz and Hayman	3431 15 3
Francis Scott	479 5- 6	John Adams	4108 1 0
William Bolts	500 0 0	John Misenor	4285-11 6
Ralph Leicester Accot Francis Charlton	500 0- 0	William Barwell	4285 11 6
Fitz Owen Jones	500- 0 0	Samuel Rush	4285-11 6
Richard Barwell	500 0- 0	Himself	4285 11 6
Do in full return for coral bead imported per ship <i>Lord Anson</i> in 1761	3525 0- 0	William Barwell	30714 4 6
Coles Stubbert	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Arthur Ahmury	500- 0 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Joseph Jekell	400- 0 0	Himself	3478- 9 0
Do	100- 0 0	Math Walker and Jno Walker	857 2 3
J / Kiernander	500 0 0	Lewis Brown	4285 11 6
Coleen Johnstone	500 0 0	Jno Johnstone & Saml. Swinton	4285-11 6
Samuel Middleton	500 0 0	Henry Hastings	4285 11 6
Do	500 0 0	Anne Lane	4285 11 6
Simon Dru z	126- 0- 0	Charles Boileau	1080 0 0
Do Acc James Watts	700 0 0	John Watts	1714 4 6
Menzies Bailie	300 0 0	Himself	2571 6 9
Alexander Cambell	500 0 0	Thos Ross	4285 11 6
Henry Palmer	700 0- 0	James Shaw	1714 4 6
John Hutchinson	50 0 0	Benjamin Randall	478 9 0
Charles De la Force	130 0 0	Mr Ferrand	1114 4 6
John Hulme	103-17 3	Thos Hulme	882 0 0
Do	187 7 11	Himself	1006 3 9
John Rathoe	450 0- 0	Himself	3600 0 0
Mathew Allen Junr	49 18 8	Mathew Allen Senr	4 4 0 0
William Lambert	500 0 0	James Hallet	47 5 11 6

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£ sterg-s-d</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs As Pe</i>
John Fortnom	30- 0- 0	Himself	257- 2- 3
Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full return for 1 chest of coral beads marked $\begin{smallmatrix} \text{ME} \\ \text{F} \end{smallmatrix}$ No 1 im- ported per ship <i>Lord</i> <i>Clive</i> 1763	128- 0- 0	Hananicl Mendez da Costa	1098-11- 3
Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full return for 1 chest of coral beads marked ME No 1 im- ported per ship <i>Earl of</i> <i>Ashburnham</i> in the year 1762	110-15-11	Hananicl Mendez da Costa	949-10- 9
Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full return for 1 chest of coral beads marked DS No 2 im- ported per <i>Earl of</i> <i>Ashburnham</i> 1762	160-16- 9	Abraham Levy Sonsino	1378- 9- 9
Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full return for 1 chest of coral beads marked [symbol] No 34 imported per ship <i>Caernarvon</i> 1764	488- 9- 9	Judah Supino	4184- 6- 9
Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full return for two chests coral beads marked AB No 23 & 24 imported per ship <i>Lord Clive</i> 1763	1784-16- 3	George Challoner	15298- 6- 3
Messrs Vansittart Plow- man in full return for one chest of coral beads mark'd [symbol] No 4 per ship <i>Plassey</i> in 1763	881- 6- 5	Jacob Moseh and Raphael Franco	7554- 3- 9
Russell Skinner	500- 0- 0	Joseph Skinner	4285-11- 6
Bryan Scotney	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11- 6
Robert Sanderson	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11-6
Hugh Watts	1000- 0- 0	Jas Farquharson and Thos Watts	8571- 7- 0
Jas Amyatt Accot John } Orfeus Yates }	500- 0- 0	Geo Clive Yng Burgess and James Amvatt	4285-11- 6
John Holme , , , , ,	187-10- 0	Thos, Holme , ,	1607- 2- 0



<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£ s d</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs. As. Ps</i>
Page Keble Accot Robt Campbell	500- 0- 0	Robert Campbell	4285-11 6
Page Keble	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Do Accot John Davidson	500- 0- 0	Messrs Beecher and Nettleton	4285-11 6
Ralph Winwood	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Thos. Pearson	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
William Hutchinson	100- 0- 0	John Misenor	857 2 3
Randolph Marriott Junr	1000- 0- 0	The Revd. Dr Randolph Marriott	8571 7 0
Francis Robertson	200- 0- 0	John Bigger	1714 4 6
Francis Hare	500- 0- 0	Lady Fleming	4285-11 6
Patrick Duff	100 0- 0	John Duff	857 2 3
Henry Grant	500- 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
John Cummings	500- 0- 0	John Mackenzie	4285-11 6
William MacPherson	500 0 0	William Ferguson	4285 11 6
James Ellis	500 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Thos Anderson	500- 0- 0	Jno Walsh and Geo Clive	4285-11 6
James Campbell	500- 0- 0	Do. Do	4285-11 6
Alexander Champion	500 0- 0	John Edison	4285-11 6
Hugh Crant	500 0 0	Alexander Crant	4285-11 6
Harry Vereke Accot Elzth Massey	50-12 8	Richd. Beecher Accot Elzth. Massey	434 8- 3
Do Accot Mrs Elzth Beard	361 11 9	Elizabeth Beard	3099 5 3
Archibald Swinton Accot the estate of John Downes	500 0- 0	Archibald Swinton	4285 11 6
George Van start	500 0 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Philip Milner Dactes	270- 0- 0	Thomas Stone Street	1885 11 6
Russell Skinner Accot Thos. Tydd	500 0- 0	Thomas Tydd	4285-11 6
John Wood	500 0 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Ralph Leicester Accot Francis Russell	395 0- 0	Willm Russell and Luke Serafton	3385 11 6
Do Accot John Garner	120- 0- 0	Stephen Law	1171 6- 9
Edward Ward	500 0 0	Himself	4285 11 6
John Petrie	500 0- 0	Himself	4285-11 6
Ja. Lawtell Accot John Graham	105- 0- 0	William Shewen	900 0 0
Rand lph Marriott Sent Do	257 0- 0 100 0- 0	William Browne Mary Marriott	2160 0 0 857 2 3
Gilbert Iron side	30 0 0	Himself	257 2 3
James Logan	500 0 0	Robert Hepburn	4285 11 6
Edward Stephenson	500 0 0	George Browne	4285 11 6
James Win ter	150 0 0	Himself	1785 11 6

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£ sterg-s-d</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs As Pe</i>
Do	150- 0- 0	Himself	1285-11- 6
Francis Sykes	1000- 0- 0	Robt Nettleton, Richd Beecher and Culling Smith	8571- 7- 0
Harry Verelst	500- 0- 0	George Gray Senr	4285-11- 6
Do in full return for one chest of coral beads imported per ship Grenville	427- 2- 6	Hananiel Mendez da Costa	3661- 1- 0

## LETTER DATED 31 JANUARY 1766

*Advantages of acquisition of Diwani—highly satisfactory condition of the revenues—urge restriction on export of specie—reduction in military expenses—regulation of inland trade—increase in rent from Calcutta lands—embezzlement of Midnapore revenues—observations on Johnstone's defence—subversive activities of Leycester and Gray—insubordinate conduct of junior servants on strengthening the Board with civilians from Madras—suspension of Majendie—negotiations with the Marathas for cession of the northern part of Orissa for a stipulated annual revenue*

**T**O the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 We have now the honor to transmit the sequel of those proceedings of the Select Committee which were dispatched the 30th September by the *Admiral Stevens* and also a duplicate of our letter of that date

2 The conjectures we then formed with respect to the system which the Committee found it necessary, have in the event corresponded to our warmest expectations, and it is with extreme satisfaction we can assure you that a happy prospect is daily opening to our view of security and opulence to the Company Money flowing into your treasury, contentment expressed by the country government and peace deffusing her blessings throughout every district of the Nabob's dominions, are to us the most pleasing testimonies of the rectitude of the measures we pursued when the late grants were obtained The more we reflect on the situation of your affairs the stronger appear the reasons for accepting the *dewanee* of these provinces by which alone we could establish a power sufficient to perpetuate the possessions we hold and the influence we enjoy While the Nabob acted in quality of collector for the Mogul the means of supporting our military establishment depended upon his pleasure In the most critical situations while we stood balancing on the extreme border of destruction, his stipulated payments were slow and deficient The revenues

were often withheld by disaffected rajahs and turbulent zemindars, who despised the weakness of his government or they were squandered in profusion or dissipated in corruption the never failing symptoms of a declining constitution and feeble administration whence we were frequently disappointed of those supplies, upon the punctual receipt of which depended the very existence of the Company in Bengal

We cannot indeed look back without horror upon that desperate crisis to which your affairs were reduced when a mutinous spirit prevailed among your troops, when dissensions distracted your consultations, and a powerful enemy was invading the provinces, to seize and desolate your possessions and probably to extirpate your servants. To us it evidently appears there remained but the alternative to advance as we have done and grasp at the whole power or to shrink back into our primitive condition of simple merchants, to abandon our possessions, disband our forces, and rest our future hopes on the clemency of princes who will not easily forget or forgive the superiority we have so long maintained. In a word this last measure was in itself impracticable for we must observe although with much regret that the misconduct of individuals, hath rendered the English name so odious, that we are no longer secure than while our hands are armed for the defence of our lives and property

3 The several statements that go numbers in our packet shew clearly the amount of revenues to be collected this year into the treasury exclusive of those issuing from the provinces of Burdwan Midnapore and Chittagong the Calcutta lands and all your former possessions. At present they stand encumbered with a variety of superfluous charges which we hope to reduce when we come to adjust the collections of the ensuing year. But we thought it advisable to avoid introducing innovations which might create disgust and dissatisfaction at so early a period of our Government. The net balance amounting to 212 laaks of *sicca* rupees 8,226,000 pounds sterling will be the more readily paid that the ministers and officers of the Government can have nothing to plead in excuse for deficiencies and we have reason to believe it will not fall greatly short of the stated amount. This balance is abundantly sufficient to supply your China trade provide for our own investment and defray all the expences of your civil and military establishments. Whatever surplus may remain in the treasury after the stipends to the King and Nabob are discharged and all other more immediate demands are answered this together with the revenues of Burdwan &c shall then be applied to relieve the wants of the other Presidencies to pay off your bonds and to such other purposes as may appear to us most conducive to your interest

4 Mr Sykes who was some time since appointed Resident at the Darbar and supervisor of the collections hath now taken charge of the factory at Cassimbuzar upon Mr Senior's application for leave to return to Europe. The great diligence he has exerted in settling the revenues and forming the statements as well as attention to the other several objects of administration afford us the utmost reason to be highly satisfied with his conduct. He is daily making remittances the first fruits of the collections to the treasury whereby we are already enabled to set apart a supply of 24 laaks for our China investment twelve of which are now under dispatch for Canton the remainder will be sent in the month of February to Madras to be forwarded from thence to China by the earliest conveyance. When the collections of the year are closed,

we have directed Mr Sykes to enquire strictly into the balances to the Government and to use every possible endeavour to recover them, as we entertain the most flattering hope, that from these arrears will arise a fund sufficient to discharge all the public demands on the late Nabob, for which your honor may stand any way engaged

5 Notwithstanding all these immense revenues of which the Company is actually possessed, we must earnestly request your serious attention to the consequences of our impoverishing the country by such considerable annual export of treasure to China We must also recommend that you devise some method of enabling your servants and the inhabitants of the settlement to remit their own fortunes and the effects of deceased persons in their hands, by some other channel than that of bills on France and Holland You are now in a situation which will never require your receiving private effects into the treasury to be able to complete your own investment Your collections are adequate to every purpose and demand that we can foresee The Governor and Council could not therefore with any propriety subject you to the inconvenience of answering bills to the amount of forty or fifty laaks merely for the benefit of your servants, and suffer your own money to lie dead and unappropriated in the treasury Indeed we were particularly cautious of drawing largely for this year, in order that you might be able to discharge your more immediate and pressing engagements at home, yet should the necessity continue of remitting private property by foreign funds, the French and Dutch will not only be enabled thereby to provide early and valuable investments, but the provinces will also be deprived of a very considerable addition to the current species, which those nations will otherwise be obliged to import every year in ready money To obviate as far as possible any immediate bad effects to the public from the above causes, the President has now under consideration a proposal to prevent the exportation of treasure from occasioning a scarcity of money for some years at least, yet as this proposal rather tends to palliate than effectually to remedy the evil, it is from your instructions only that we are to expect a radical cure

6 The opportunity which the restoration of peace affords for carrying into execution your orders relative to the *batta* allowed to military officers, will greatly contribute to the increase of your surplus fund Those orders although reasonable and necessary could not, however, be conveniently enforced before public tranquility and military discipline and subordination were firmly established It was also requisite before we entered upon a reduction of their pay to devise the means of their living cheaper and of supplying them with liquors and other stores at a more moderate price than these articles had usually been furnished We must likewise observe that regimenting the troops hath not only conduced to the reformation we proposed, but also facilitated the reduction of expence you enjoin A soldier who knows and performs his duty will neither expect nor require the superfluities and luxuries of life

Accordingly we have ordained that on the first day of the present month the *batta* should be struck off<sup>1</sup> from the troops in general, excepting the brigade stationed in Shuja Dowlah's dominions who, on account of the high price of provisions and the difficulty of procuring stores, will be allowed double *batta* in the field and half double *batta* in cantonments and in garrison until they are recalled to the provinces For the same reasons half *batta* is continued

to the troops quartered at Patna and Mongheer but the rest of the army we mean the detachments at subordinates and other places that are not engaged in actual service are reduced precisely on a footing with the Company's forces upon the Coast even those stationed at Mongheer and Patna receive the same exact *batta* as your troops at Trichinopoly From such regulations and also from the check given to the many shameful abuses committed in musters returns, hospital bills boats and other articles, we may affirm with confidence that the charges of your whole establishment civil and military including your fortifications will fall short of the amount expended during the course of the late war on your army alone and yet it is proposed if you supply us duly with recruits, to maintain the complete establishment projected by Lord Clive and the most formidable army that ever took the field in Bengal From what causes your military expences swelled to such immeasurable bounds requires no explanation Certain it is they far exceeded the liberal supplies so liberally voted by the British Parliament for an army of auxiliaries employed to oppose the combined forces of the most powerful princes in Christendom

7 To these schemes of economy permit us to add the late resolution of this Committee regarding the new works erected for the security of your servants and property These works have for several years past been a perpetual drain for treasures which might have been more usefully applied yet should we ever meet with the misfortune of being driven off the field and cooped up within the walls of this fort your affairs may then be considered as desperate and irrecoverable It is therefore the unanimous opinion of this Committee confirmed by the sentiments of the Chief Engineer that we ought to regard the new works as a temporary security only for which purpose the ditch ramparts bastions and ravelin already finished are sufficient to withstand the greatest force which the powers of this country are ever likely to assemble Captain Martin further delivers it as his opinion that enlarging the fortifications conformably to the plan of the intended outworks would add nothing to the strength of the place unless we could at the same time maintain a garrison proportioned to their extent We resolved therefore not to proceed on the plan beyond what is now completed but to use all possible means to check the encroachments of the River which hath advanced within a few yards of the covered way and threatens to sweep away one entire side of the fort We will also make all the dispatch we are able in completing the barracks some of which we have converted into very commodious apartments for the writers lately arrived and are convinced it would be much for the benefit of the service if all the young servants and the public officers were collected within so narrow a compass as might subject them to closer inspection than is possible in their present situation

8 Mahomed Reza Cawn and the ministers we associated with him to conduct the business of the country government proceed with alacrity and unanimity under the direction of Mr Sykes the Resident They as well as the people in general express great satisfaction at the order we lately issued and enforced for recalling to the Presidency all free merchants and other Europeans who are not in your covenanted service many of whom had by interfering with public affairs by acts of oppression and violence and by assuming and exerting a judicial authority totally perverted the ordinary

course of justice and given great interruption to the business of the administration. Yet we must lament that the just and necessary punishment inflicted upon those who had committed abuses, should unavoidably extend to others who always acted with integrity and honour.

9 The more effectually to remove every cause of complaint and render the ministers responsible for the collection of the stated revenue, we have directed that none besides those who are employed in certain public stations shall in future correspond with the officers of the Government, hold lands, lend money to the zemindars or take any other means of improving their fortunes or acquiring influence in the country that may tend to disturb, distress or defraud either the administration or the people, and this prohibition we have extended to all your servants civil and military and their dependants. It was the earnest request of the ministers that we should impose such restrictions and we thought compliance but reasonable as we were well assured that the revenue had suffered from the excess to which these practises were carried.

10 In one instance, however, we have taken the liberty of deviating from your orders for recalling the free merchants &c. The plan for conducting the joint inland trade in the articles of salt, betelnut and tobacco, is in itself so extensive, the capital required so very considerable and the difficulty of procuring money at a moderate interest so great, that it becomes indispensibly necessary, the accounts of the Society should be closed and their books balanced with more dispatch than can be expected, should black *gomastahs* and agents be employed, for this reason and because we are willing to promote to the utmost of our power a scheme that appears well calculated for your interest and the public benefit, we have permitted the Committee of Trade to appoint European agents for disposing of the Society's concerns<sup>2</sup> at certain established marts in different parts of the country. And as for this purpose, Company's servants could not be spared from the Presidency and subordinates, those agents are therefore chosen from the list of free merchants with the utmost attention to their character and former behaviour. Besides which we have strictly confined them to the business of the Society by such severe penalties and restrictions as we think must effectually prevent their giving offence or molestation. Should we find these limitations insufficient to secure the peace of the country and remove all cause of complaint, we are then determined to recall them and remit the business to black agents.

11 Further to assist this valuable branch of commerce and promote the credit of the infant Society, the Governor and Council have at the request of the Committee of Trade, signed and executed a deed for the better securing to the Society, the free and exclusive purchase and sale of the articles of salt &c from the 1st September 1765 to the 30th August 1766, allowing a sufficient time to dispose of such stock as may be provided for the season in order to prevent the great loss that must arise to the proprietors should any alteration take place, by your order after the concerns of the year are begun and before the same are concluded. We therefore flatter ourselves with your entire approbation of this measure, so essential to the due execution of the plan formed by your permission and with all possible regard to your interest.

12 Our proceedings point out clearly the increase of your rents issuing from the Calcutta lands and the general minutes entered upon that subject explain our sentiments on the prospect we have of rating the *pergunnahs* still

higher without exaction or oppression. It evidently appears to us that considerable frauds were formerly committed in these collections with a view of correcting which we have determined that the leases granted to the present farmers should expire on the 1st day of November next. By that time we hope to find leisure to ascertain their value and more exactly at least we shall then silence the clamour of the inhabitants against what they deem a monopoly by universally diffusing and extending the benefits arising from the possession of lands, among the most substantial and reputable banyans and black merchants living under your protection.

13 Most earnestly do we wish that such shameful embezzlement of the public money were confined to those lands situated more immediately under the eyes of the Governor and Council since nothing besides the greatest inattention and misconduct could then prevent the detection of abuses. But should a general depravity of manners prevail and your servants acting in the highest stations be restrained neither by motives of conscience nor by principles of honor the discovery of frauds at places remote from the Presidency will then become more difficult and merely accidental. This evidently appears from the state of the Midnapore revenues which for three years past have yielded 2,52,000 rupees more than were ever placed as they ought to the Company's credit. Our recalling the factor and appointing Mr Verelst Supervisor<sup>2</sup> and Mr Graham Resident at Midnapore under his direction brought this unwarrantable transaction (to) light which might otherwise have lain in profound obscurity until chance had produced a Resident whose sense of honour and feelings of conscience were stronger than the impulses of private interest. For your further information we beg leave to refer you to Mr Verelst's letter and the statement of those revenues inserted in the accompanying list of packet. Yet fortunate to the Company as this discovery will certainly be considered we must confess it occasions great embarrassment to our proceedings unless we would deviate on the one hand or the other from that duty which we owe to our constituents. It was firmly our intention to avoid further retrospection of the conduct of an administration so notoriously corrupt and meanly venal throughout every department in hopes the examples already made would sufficiently deter others and work a reformation. It was the correction of abuses and not the punishment of misconduct that we proposed although we endeavoured to avoid exposing ourselves either to the censure of partiality or the heavier charge of unfaithfulness to our employers.

In this and many other instances we considered that a scrutiny into the particulars of the embezzlement would be unprofitable to you while it would at the same time occasion great obstruction to our consultation and might end in the necessity of diminishing the number of your Council already much reduced by the death of one the suspension of another and the resignation of four members of the Board. We must further beg leave to observe that we cannot help regarding the late Resident as far less culpable than any of his immediate predecessors who may be said to have chalked out the path and guided his steps by the false light that misled him. Certain it is that should you disapprove our lenity the same decree in law or equity which will oblige Mr Watts to refund will also oblige his predecessors to make restitution from these considerations therefore we resolve to leave it in the option of your honorable Board to prosecute or relinquish your claim to such balances as

ought to have been applied to your credit, contenting ourselves with giving you the necessary information of facts and taking the most effectual means to prevent such practices in future

14 For reasons of a similar nature we decline resuming any further consideration of the conduct of the Board and deputation during the late negotiations at Moorshedabad. Already our Consultations have been too much interrupted with cavilling debate and faction. We are heartily sick of the fruitless labor of raking in the jakes of corruption and should we enter upon fresh enquiries, we must again wholly suspend the course of current business. You have before you sufficient proofs whether gentlemen distinguished most zeal for your service or attachment to their own interest and should you be disposed for the sake of example to attempt the recovery of those sums obtained so unwarrantably from the Nabob and his ministers, we apprehend the evidences transmitted are strong and explicit enough to ground an action upon in any court of judicature

15 It remains with us to offer a few remarks upon that letter which Mr Johnstone sent in to the Board just as the *Admiral Stevens* was under sail, as if he apprehended least some bold assertions he advanced might be refuted before he was out of reach of the shame consequent on detection. Many of these assertions are so mean, so contrary to truth and to Mr Johnstone's own knowledge that we read them with equal surprize and contempt, sensible that he must be hardpressed indeed to support a sinking reputation who has recourse to falsehood to justify misconduct.

16 This gentleman thinks it necessary after three months preparation, to apologize for a lame and unreasonable defence by affirming that he was denied all access to the papers relative to himself, until a few days before his departure Mr Johnstone forgot that he acknowledges the receipt of those very papers in a note he wrote to our Secretary in the month of June before we came to any determination, which note is now in the Secretary's possession. He also forgot that the letters of Messrs Senior and Middleton inserted in our proceedings of the 21st June, prove that all the evidences and proceedings upon that occasion were regularly transmitted to those gentlemen who were not present at the Board. He ought therefore rather to avail himself of his first plea and refuse acknowledging the authority of the Committee than thus to skulk behind a pitiful untruth

From the deep fund of critical learning which Mr Johnstone displays in the country language, we might reasonably expect a more perfect knowledge of the power and idiom of his mother tongue. For after torturing the phrase *cooch boohgam* [*kuchh bolunga nahin* or *kuchh bhuloonga nahin*] to make our proceedings appear unfair and impartial, he is at length forced to construe it into a signification that implies a stronger menace than can possibly be conveyed in the words of our translation. The least acquaintance with the English language will enable any man to determine whether in the circumstances there represented Mr Johnstone's expression "I will be silent" doth not imply a more emphatic menace than the words which we ascribe to him "your business will meet with no countenance" inasmuch as the one declares all that is meant, whereas the other intimates a harsher meaning than he would choose to express

Mr Johnstone insinuates by way of reflection on the management of the



Committee that we were under the necessity of applying to the Seets for the loan of a lark and a half of rupees. The fact is true but it rests with Mr Johnstone and his associates at the Board to explain how the Company's treasury came to be at so low an ebb as to want so poor a supply. It also rests with him to explain how the Nabob (for our first application was to the Nabob) came to be so impoverished by presents made to the deputation that he could not furnish even this small relief to the necessities of the Company. And it rests particularly with Mr Johnstone to assign the reason why a balance of six larks was due from Burdwan to your exhausted treasury while he was filling his own pockets at the Durbar which balance was afterwards collected by Mr Verelst.

What he remarks on our opinion of Mr Lyecester delivered in our proceedings of the 21st June is also very true. That gentleman had jointly with Mr Johnstone received bills from M. R. Cawn but as he declared upon oath that he had no intention of benefiting by them it was surely incumbent on the Committee to acquit him in a public opinion. We should have acquitted Mr Johnstone likewise, if he had made the same solemn declaration but our private sentiments of that oath we should have reserved as in Mr Lyecester's case to our letter to the Court of Directors for an oath may silence an accusation of crimes, but it doth not necessarily produce conviction of innocence. Mr Johnstone hath tacked to this extraordinary defence certain letters written to him by Mahomed Reza Cawn and his own agent Mooteraum<sup>d</sup> as vouchers for his good behaviour during the negotiation. With respect to these letters we must observe they were obtained at a period when it may reasonably be supposed that such testimonies durst not be refused on account of the extraordinary authority which Mr Johnstone had just before assumed at the Durbar. It may also be observed from M. R. Cawn's letter that great apprehensions were conceived lest the Nabob should come to Calcutta to lay his complaints before the Committee and Mr Johnstone knows that interest was made with the then Resident to prevail on him to exert his utmost influence in preventing a visit which it was thought would not bring much honor to the deputation. We leave it therefore to your honorable Board to determine whether at the best these testimonies will justify Mr Johnstone from the charge of extortion and weigh down against the most positive evidence that can be given upon any matter of fact. Be this as it will we think it necessary to correct Mr Johnstone's mistake when he affirms that M. R. Cawn's first deposition takes no notice of any demand made in the name of the deputation. A reference to that deposition will satisfy you that Mr Johnstone either read without attention or that he quitted without candour.

It would be endless to pursue Mr Johnstone through the labyrinth of error and misrepresentation so evident in every page of his letter. Permit us therefore to refer you for a more particular reply to the proceedings themselves and to Lord Clive's minute and to those of the members of the Select Committee entered in the appendix already transmitted by the *Admiral Stevens*. As to Mr Johnstone's management in the Burdwan province we could wish he had offered us to clear with the veil of all his transactions that will not bear examination. He hath now by his ill judged structures in Mr Verelst's memorial obliged that gentleman to disclose what out of tenderness to Mr Johnstone he was unwilling to reveal.

17 You will observe from the Consultations that Mr Leycester stands suspended, and that Mr Gray resigned the service while his conduct during his residence at Manilla was under consideration of the Board, you will also perceive the obstruction given to all public business by cavilling debate, and unreasonable minutes, while these two gentlemen remained at the Board. Those minutes are of themselves sufficient testimony of the spirit which actuated so extraordinary a behaviour. They are indecent, violent, and factious beyond anything ever before tolerated in this Government in the most licentious times.

Messrs Leycester and Gray no sooner perceived the lash of correction removed, than they, unmindful of the lenity of the Committee when we might with propriety and indeed ought to have suspended them the service, set up a determined opposition and dared to ridicule and insult the Government upon all occasions. Yet we bore this usage with patience out of regard to your situation, and replied to their minutes with temper, until Mr Leycester proceeded to such lengths of licentiousness as tended to involve the settlement in anarchy and civil dissensions. He published an expression hastily dropt by General Carnac at the Board, with such additional and aggravating circumstances, as were best calculated to raise a ferment in the minds of the people and excite the inhabitants to open sedition. The alarm that we were about to introduce a military government, became so general, we thought it incumbent on us to trace the author of such dangerous calumny, and upon a conviction that Mr Leycester had forged and published it with a design of weakening the hands of the administration, we judged it necessary to suspend him as unworthy of his station in your service.

18 We need not take up your time in justifying a measure that became indispensably necessary, unless we meant to relinquish all attempts to effect that general reformation so essential to the stability and permanency of your possessions. Mr Leycester had strenuously opposed every measure which tended to the correction of abuses, and even while he was acting in the capacity of a magistrate and judge, most shamefully endeavoured to suppress, pervert, and stifle evidence relative to Mr Gray's conduct. His own minute upon the occasion produced his suspension so strongly points out the violent designs he entertained that we could sit no longer at the same Board with any regard to our own characters or prospect of advantage to your service. From the loud cry raised by Mr Gray and him against military force and arbitrary power, one would naturally have conceived the President had deprived half the British subjects in the settlement of their birthright, the fact, however, was nothing more than that Lord Clive had ordered a guard of sepoys over Ramnaut; a man of infamous character said to be employed by Mr Gray in the most iniquitous acts of extortion and a native of Manilla who himself refused to claim the protection of our laws, because he should thereby become subject to the punishment to which those laws condemn his offences. Whereas numberless instances occur in former governments in Bengal of natives, inhabitants of Calcutta being confined by military guards, upon accusations of infinitely less consequence to the public weal. In short these two gentlemen were so discontented and industrious in propagating the seeds of their humour that we are firmly convinced the suspension of the one was necessary, and the resignation of the other conducive to the benefit of your service, yet these are the gentlemen who we are told, flatter themselves with the hopes of justifying their

Committee that we were under the necessity of applying to the Seets for the loan of a lakh and a half of rupees. The fact is true but it rests with Mr Johnstone and his associates at the Board to explain how the Company's treasury came to be at so low an ebb as to want so poor a supply. It also rests with him to explain how the Nabob (for our first application was to the Nabob) came to be so impoverished by presents made to the deputation that he could not furnish even this small relief to the necessities of the Company. And it rests particularly with Mr Johnstone to assign the reason why a balance of six lakhs was due from Burdwan to your exhausted treasury while he was filling his own pockets at the Durbar which balance was afterwards collected by Mr Verelst.

What he remarks on our opinion of Mr Leicester delivered in our proceedings of the 21st June is also very true. That gentleman had jointly with Mr Johnstone received bills from M. R. Cawn but as he declared upon oath that he had no intention of benefiting by them it was surely incumbent on the Committee to acquit him in a public opinion. We should have acquitted Mr Johnstone likewise if he had made the same solemn declaration but our private sentiments of that oath we should have reserved as in Mr Leicester's case to our letter to the Court of Directors for an oath may silence an accusation of crimes but it doth not necessarily produce conviction of innocence. Mr Johnstone hath tacked to this extraordinary defence certain letters written to him by Mahomed Reza Cawn and his own agent Mooteraum as vouchers for his good behaviour during the negotiation. With respect to these letters we must observe they were obtained at a period when it may reasonably be supposed that such testimonies durst not be refused on account of the extraordinary authority which Mr Johnstone had just before assumed at the Durbar. It may also be observed from M. R. Cawn's letter that great apprehensions were conceived lest the Nabob should come to Calcutta to lay his complaints before the Committee and Mr Johnstone knows that interest was made with the then Resident to prevail on him to exert his utmost influence in preventing a visit which it was thought would not bring much honor to the deputation. We leave it therefore to your honorable Board to determine whether at the best these testimonies will justify Mr Johnstone from the charge of extortion and weigh down against the most positive evidence that can be given upon any matter of fact. Be this as it will we think it necessary to correct Mr Johnstone's mistake when he affirms that M. R. Cawn's first deposition takes no notice of any demand made in the name of the deputation. A reference to that deposition will satisfy you that Mr Johnstone either read without attention or that he quote without candour.

It would be endless to pursue Mr Johnstone through the tedious maze of error and misrepresentation so evident in every page of his letter. Permit us therefore to refer you for a more particular reply to the proceedings themselves and to Lord Clive's minute and to those of the members of the Select Committee entered in the appendix already transmitted by the *Admiral Stevens*. As to Mr Johnstone's management in the Burdwan province we could wish he had preferred it to cover with the veil of silence a transaction that will not bear examination. He hath now by his ill judged strictures on Mr Verelst's memorial obliged that gentleman to disclose what out of tenderness to Mr Johnstone he was unwilling to reveal.

17 You will observe from the Consultations that Mr. Leycester stands suspended, and that Mr. Gray resigned the service while his conduct during his residence at Manilla was under consideration of the Board, you will also perceive the obstruction given to all public business by cavilling debate, and unreasonable minutes, while these two gentlemen remained at the Board. Those minutes are of themselves sufficient testimony of the spirit which actuated so extraordinary a behaviour. They are indecent, violent, and factious beyond anything ever before tolerated in this Government in the most licentious times.

Messrs. Leycester and Gray no sooner perceived the lash of correction removed, than they, unmindful of the lenity of the Committee when we might with propriety and indeed ought to have suspended them the service, set up a determined opposition and dared to ridicule and insult the Government upon all occasions. Yet we bore this usage with patience out of regard to your situation, and replied to their minutes with temper, until Mr. Leycester proceeded to such lengths of licentiousness as tended to involve the settlement in anarchy and civil dissensions. He published an expression hastily dropt by General Carnac at the Board, with such additional and aggravating circumstances, as were best calculated to raise a ferment in the minds of the people and excite the inhabitants to open sedition. The alarm that we were about to introduce a military government, became so general, we thought it incumbent on us to trace the author of such dangerous calumny, and upon a conviction that Mr. Leycester had forged and published it with a design of weakening the hands of the administration, we judged it necessary to suspend him as unworthy of his station in your service.

18 We need not take up your time in justifying a measure that became indispensably necessary, unless we meant to relinquish all attempts to effect that general reformation so essential to the stability and permanency of your possessions. Mr. Leycester had strenuously opposed every measure which tended to the correction of abuses, and even while he was acting in the capacity of a magistrate and judge, most shamefully endeavoured to suppress, pervert, and stifle evidence relative to Mr. Gray's conduct. His own minute upon the occasion produced his suspension so strongly points out the violent designs he entertained that we could sit no longer at the same Board with any regard to our own characters or prospect of advantage to your service. From the loud cry raised by Mr. Gray and him against military force and arbitrary power, one would naturally have conceived the President had deprived half the British subjects in the settlement of their birthright, the fact, however, was nothing more than that Lord Clive had ordered a guard of sepoys over Ramnaut<sup>5</sup> a man of infamous character said to be employed by Mr. Gray in the most iniquitous acts of extortion and a native of Manilla who himself refused to claim the protection of our laws, because he should thereby become subject to the punishment to which those laws condemn his offences. Whereas numberless instances occur in former governments in Bengal of natives, inhabitants of Calcutta being confined by military guards, upon accusations of infinitely less consequence to the public weal. In short these two gentlemen were so discontented and industrious in propagating the seeds of their humour that we are firmly convinced the suspension of the one was necessary, and the resignation of the other conducive to the benefit of your service, yet these are the gentlemen who we are told, flatter themselves with the hopes of justifying their

conduct to your satisfaction and of returning again to the management of your concerns in Bengal. Should this event ever happen we have only to wish although contrary to all human probability that your affairs may prosper.

19 The Board being now reduced far beneath the establishment we proposed and to a number insufficient to conduct the necessary business of the Government filling the vacant seats became an object of immediate consideration. By the *Admiral Stierens* we freely delivered our sentiments of the unsuitableness for that station of some of those gentlemen who stand next in succession. We also recommended with the greatest earnestness that in composing your Council you would admit of no claim but that of merit and approved services. We must now again beg leave to repeat that from a list of fourteen Junior Merchants we are not able to select a number sufficient to make up the deficiency of the members at the Board unless we abandon all hope of curbing licentiousness reforming abuses and subduing that universal passion that prevails among your servants of accumulating riches in a manner inconsistent with the good of the country and your interest. The factious spirit which lately blazed out so violently in Council, hath reached the lower classes so we can entertain no reasonable hope of their cordial services until they have felt the weight of correction and experienced the influence of example. Still however we should be sorry to deprive them of all prospect of rising by promoting their juniors on this establishment since time and the certain assurance that merit not standing will entitle them to your favour may produce the desired effect upon their conduct.

20 For these reasons we applied to the Presidency at Fort St George requesting that Messrs. Russell Aldersey Kelsall and Floyer might be permitted to sit in the present exigency until your pleasure should be known being fully persuaded that this preference of the servants of another Presidency will operate more effectually than if we had recourse to the more irksome and mortifying indignity of superseding them from this establishment. We are very desirous to find that our endeavours to serve the Company in a manner the least injurious to your servants here should be misconstrued. As soon as this measure became known by reports from Madras and previous to our laying any proceedings before the Board the young gentlemen of the settlement had set themselves up for judges of the propriety of our conduct and the degree of their own merit each would seem to think himself qualified to transact your weighty affairs in Council at an age when the laws of his country adjudge him unfit to manage his own concerns to the extent of forty shillings. They have not only set their hands to the memorial of complaint but entered into a war of words unbecoming at their years and destructive of that subordination without which no government can stand. All visits to the President are forbidden all invitations from him and the members of the Committee are to be slighted. The gentlemen called down by our authority from Madras are to be treated with neglect and contempt. Every man who deviates from the conference is to be stigmatized and excluded. In a word the members are totally to reject them every fr in the head determination and unanimity to be set at defiance and it becomes a fair struggle whether we or the young gentlemen of all in future push the helm of Government. Let at their names examine their standing enquire into their services and reflect upon the age of four thirty of

the subscribers to this bill of grievances and who now support the association, and you will be equally surprised with us at the presumptuous intemperance of youth and convinced that a stop of three or four years in the course of promotion is indispensably necessary if you would have your Council composed of men of experience and discretion

21 From this sketch of the behaviour of your junior servants you will perceive the dangerous pitch to which the independant and licentious spirit of this settlement hath risen You will then determine on the necessity and propriety of the step we have taken In the meantime we are resolved to support it or we must submit to the anarchy and confusion consequent on subjecting the decrees of your Select Committee to the revisal and repeal of young gentlemen just broke loose from the hands of their schoolmaster Earnestly do we wish that every member of this Board had cordially joined in the same sentiments, since dissents serve only to break the force of resolutions, to weaken authority and give vigour and courage to faction and disobedience As to the point of indignity of which your petitioners complain nothing can be more evident than that the Committee regarded the present supercession as less injurious than a selection would be from this establishment, since we even declined promoting upon this occasion the very persons whom we particularly recommended to the most distinguishing marks of your favour In this light it is considered in every other service, had such promotion been the choice of the Committee

22 Our proceedings explain the motives of our conduct and also the measures we enforced to reduce the settlement to order and obedience Mr Majendie, the Secretary to the Council, is dismissed from his office, and suspended the service for having eminently distinguished himself in forming a combination so unwarrantable in itself, so dangerous in the present conjuncture and so peculiarly unbecoming to his age, to his station, and to his employment Should this example suffice, we shall avoid proceeding to the extremity of punishing with the loss of bread, young men who have been artfully spirited up to faction, to gratify the resentment and promote the selfish views of men in whom you have reposed unmerited and much abused confidence

You will be astonished to observe at the head of this list two members of your Council who subscribe their names in testimony of their sense of the injustice done to the younger servants Possibly this testimony might have weight with your honorable Board had those gentlemen first cleared up their conduct from certain imputations which intimate how little their interest disposes them to co-operate in a reformation for the public benefit At all events whether the proceeding of the Committee be in itself right or wrong it is most certainly their duty to repress every factious combination, to temper the heat and vehemence of youth, to maintain the authority of the Board, and to avoid giving countenance to a seditious and rebellious humour that might have produced the subversion of Government and the most fatal consequences to the Company's affairs before your decision could arrive

23 This incident occurring four days only before the dispatch of the ship, you will not expect that our letter from the Public Department should enter so minutely into the transactions of the Board as we proposed The business is now suddenly taken up by Mr Campbell, our Secretary, who we

are assured will exert his utmost ability but he requests you will please to make an allowance for the shortness of time and his total unacquaintance with all that has been transacted in that Department

24 We have the satisfaction to acquaint you that Suja Dowlah appears well disposed to cultivate our friendship and adhere strictly to the conditions of the late treaty Colonel Smith's brigade is now stationed at Allahabad and Benares to secure the King and Vizier against the invasions of the Mahrattas until they have fully re-established themselves and payment of the stipulated indemnification to the Company is completed His Majesty's visionary projects of seating himself with our assistance on the throne of his ancestors and proceeding to Delhi, his capital seem to have vanished before the Committee's remonstrances. We hope he is at length convinced that without us the scheme is impracticable and we are certain it never can be your interest to extend the influence of your arms to so great a distance from your present possessions and the seat of your Government

25 Opening a communication between the Northern Sircars and Bengal must prove mutually advantageous to your Presidency at Fort St George and to us We have therefore determined to embrace the favorable opportunity which the present feeble condition of the Mahrattas affords to carry this measure into execution and have for that purpose set on foot a negotiation with their chief whereby we propose he shall cede to us the northern parts of Orissa now in his possession upon our consenting to pay a certain stipulated annual revenue Whatever his determination may be it is our resolution not to attempt gaining the advantage by violence or force of arms. Peace is at length happily restored to these provinces and it will be the study of this Committee to preserve and prolong those advantages which you already begin to experience

We remain with the warmest zeal for your service and the greatest respect

Hon'ble Sirs  
Your most faithful humble  
servant

(Signed) Chas / Wm B Sumner / John  
Carnac / H Verelst / Chas Francis  
Sykes

Calcutta  
the 31st January 1782

I enclose

In section 21 of the preceding address you will observe the following paragraph: "Henceforth we wish that every member of the Board had cordially joined in the same sentiment: we did not serve only to break the force of resolution but to weaken it and only at the expense of our influence in the future and the present."



Shuj'ud-Daulah





Mr Sumner conceiving this paragraph to be particularly levelled against himself, begs leave to enter his dissent to that and such other parts of the letter as differ from the sentiments he hath already expressed upon the face of the proceedings as well of the Council as of the Committee

(Signed) Clive / W B Sumner / John  
Carnac / H Verelst / Chas [Francis]  
Sykes

26

## LETTER DATED 1 FEBRUARY 1766

*'Reasons for requisitioning services of Russell, Aldersey, Kelsall and Floyer—plan for reformation in every department—new regulations regarding batta and other army reforms—special commission to the Governor for foregoing the advantage of private trade—excess profits of the Society of Trade to be retained by the Company—new plan for carrying on salt trade—sudden acquisition of fortunes by younger servants through illicit trade deplored—suggests changes in the method of procuring investment suggested—confidence regarding improvement in financial position—Sumner opposed to bringing in civilians from Madras—restoration of Majendie recommended*

TO the Honorable the Court of Directors

Gentlemen,

1 My letters to you of the 29th September by the *Admiral Stevens* and the 28th November, overland, were so full and the circumstances which have since occurred are so few that I have little more to trouble you with by this conveyance, than a confirmation of the disagreeable truths respecting the licentiousness of this settlement which have already been so faithfully communicated to you by the Select Committee as well as by me

2 It was not long after the dispatch of the *Admiral Stevens* that I saw clearly the absolute necessity of our carrying into execution as far as we could the measure I had the honor of recommending to your consideration of procuring the assistance of a few meritorious servants upon the Madras establishment. The resignation of Messrs Burdett and Gray, the suspension of Mr Leycester, the unfitness of Messrs Senior, Watts, and Marriott, made a considerable deficiency at the Board although the absence of them all from this country would in fact be reckoned as a clear gain to the Company. Scarcely a day passes wherein I do not discover that abuses and even frauds have been practised in almost every department, the absolute necessity of such an investigation, as may prevent a continuance of them must be admitted but for me to attempt it without proper assistance, were absurd as it would fill up every moment of the time I have remaining in India, and prevent my attending even to the current business of my Government,

3 The incapacity either from understanding or principle of some who rank next to Council and the unfitness from youth inexperience or tainted integrity of others who have abilities, made us in vain search in this Presidency for proper persons to assist us in our labours. The horrid massacre by Cossim Ali Cawn of so many of the most able young men upon this establishment who would now have entered into high stations which they would have filled with honor tortured our memory but left us without hopes of retrieving the loss. It was not only my opinion but the opinion of the whole Committee excepting one man that in the present exigency of your affairs no measure could be adapted to answer so effectually the great purpose of restoring order subordination economy and zeal for the service as requesting the assistance of four gentlemen from Madras till your pleasure should be known. These gentlemen are Messrs Russell Alderney Kelsall and Flower each of whom I consider as a strong reinforcement of those necessary virtues which are wanting to complete on this establishment. In the 11th paragraph of my letter by the Admiral Stevens I had the honor of recommending this measure to you and I hope for the sake of the success of your affairs that you will ere this reaches you have given the fullest and most positive orders thereon for I am convinced it is the only plan that can secure your present prosperity. The clamour which this proceeding of the Select Committee has raised amongst the disappointed and factious will be observed upon in our General Letter and I imagine you will confess that what has passed upon the occasion confirms more strongly than anything I have before or now have urged the propriety of what we have done. Objections from gentlemen who rank immediately next to Council are not unreasonable but we here see an absurd combination set on foot by men whose fortunes enable them to quit your service without a grateful sense of the benefits received from it and by boys who cannot possibly form any judgment of the politics or government of your immense concerns. You will undoubtedly consider whether they or the Committee in whom you have been pleased to place your power and confidence are most fit to determine upon the expediency of such a measure. The point in short is reduced to this whether you would choose to have such a thing as government or not whether the junior shall be in subordination to the senior servant and whether the revenues of Bengal Bahar and Orissa shall belong to the Company or to individual.

4 For my own part till I know your determination I am resolved to propose and to endeavour to carry into execution as far as possible every regulation that appears wholesome. Your service here has been rotting in corruption. I wish to revive it and defy the world to suggest that I have any interest to serve but yours. My abilities my constitution are exerted to the utmost but I cannot proceed in the work I have begun and am determined to accomplish without proper assistance.

5 By the minutes and proceedings in Council relating to Mr Gray you will learn that I was not inclined to scrutinize particularly into that gentleman's conduct till called upon by himself in such language of defiance that I was forced to produce the information charges which had been laid before me to his prejudice and if he has been brought to shame he can only blame his own impudence.

6 A retrospection I presume would be endless were I to trace back the conduct of every suspected servant. I am persuaded very few would escape

your severest censure, to such a height had corruption and licentiousness prevailed. Our late discoveries on enquiring into the state of the Midnapore and Jellaspore revenues, give me much real concern since in doing justice to the Company the characters of individuals became necessarily exposed. As the conduct of many of your servants may appear to merit even the rigour of the law, let me entreat you not to carry your resentment so far as a prosecution. Many have been guilty from bad example, and to deprive them of their fortunes, would be to deprive them of life, since it is absolutely impossible for gentlemen brought up in the luxury and indolence of Bengal to gain a subsistence in England. My endeavours (unless discoveries unsought for should fall in my way) shall be confined to preventing the like practices in future. As soon as the four gentlemen arrive from Madras, I propose that a committee shall be formed for examining into the state of every department, and for establishing what is much wanted, method as well as integrity, and economy in each. The present state of your public offices here, is so exceedingly confused either by ignorance or design that it is with the utmost difficulty I can at any time investigate the true balance of any of their accounts but I doubt not with the assistance of the Madras gentlemen, to be able in a short time to reduce the management of such affairs to a regular form of business.

7 I have issued orders to the principals of every department, civil and military, to send in monthly an abstract of the expences incident to each. These and the particulars if I judge necessary shall be entered every month upon our Consultations by which means you will be able without much trouble to form a complete annual estimate and discover readily the articles upon which any increase should ever arise.

8 I have at last succeeded to your wishes, in the reduction of the military expences. The new regulation of *batta* took place the 1st January and your army is now modelled upon the plan of the Coast frugality. By the latter ship I shall send you a complete abstract of the military expences from January 1765, by which you will see how very considerably that heavy charge is reduced. Great as the saving is to the Company upon this head, I consider that the most material advantage consists in preventing luxury and extravagance or too sudden an independency which is the destruction of discipline. My principal object is the field officers, on them will always be our greatest dependence, and therefore I proposed by so handsome an allotment to them<sup>rs</sup> of the salt profits, to inspire the subalterns with an emulation of attaining that rank, and I hope at the same time that we shall never see it filled but by men of real merit, for I lay it down as a fundamental axiom that as in the civil line, no man who is not fit to be a Governor should rise to the rank of Councillor, so in the military, no man who is not fit to be Commander in Chief should rise to the rank of field officer. With respect to your military establishment, I must observe that it is absolutely necessary you should keep it complete sending us regular supplies of men. We shall have occasion for frequent recruits, not only for completing the battalions, but for the security of the collection of the revenues.

9 The adjustment of the revenues and the re-establishing proper notions of the Company's power, moderation, honor and resolution amongst the natives are become objects of the greatest importance since the acquisition of the *dewannee*. In order that these particulars may be expeditiously settled accord-

ing to my own satisfaction that is according to my ideas of the Company's good I am determined as soon as the ships of this season are dispatched to go up the country and supervise your affairs myself. The arrival of Messrs Russell Aldersey Kelsall and Floyer (which we now daily expect) will enable me to quit the Presidency with satisfaction since I shall then see men and things in such a channel for promoting reformation as I could wish.

10 If the Court of Directors will exert their authority in a vigorous and resolute manner this settlement corrupt as it is may still be retrieved. The possessions of the Company in Bengal are so immense and the manners of your servants so totally different from those of former times, that the interest of individuals must give way to integrity and ability if not be assured that this opulent government must either end in expropriation or fall into the hands of higher powers.

11 Although gratitude one might imagine would bind those who have acquired great fortunes in the service to exert themselves in securing every advantage to the Company a conduct directly opposite seems to have prevailed and even the Company's property has been filched into the pockets of individuals. Your rights however are now so clearly ascertained and so much may be expected from our new regulations, that abuses are not likely to happen in future unless you should unfortunately relax in your own authority.

12 The advantages of trade to a Governor must be very great yet I cannot help thinking the Company would do well to allow him even a full equivalent and absolutely forbid his having any concern whatever in trade. This you may remember was one of my principles, and I am convinced by experience that your affairs in Bengal are so extensive and important that a Governor cannot possibly do his duty to the Company and at the same time attend to mercantile concerns of his own. Your extensive commercial affairs, the study of your finances, the politics of the country, the epistolary correspondence, the proceedings of Council and Committee, these are sufficient to employ every moment of his time and I am confident your affairs cannot be conducted with the requisite attention to your interest if the mind of the Governor be diverted by complicated accounts of his own either of shipping or inland trade. This together with my proposal by the Admiral Stevens of an oath and penalty bond completely conveys to you my idea of the restrictions upon private interest where it by any means may effect the public good will be absolutely necessary after my departure.

13 I have been informed that there are not wanting among your servants, gentlemen who complain that my measures are all planned for the interest of the Company only without regard to the emolument of individual. If such ungrateful murmuring should reach your ears judge by the enclosed state of the list of advantages of the salt allotted to them whether I have forgotten their interest in the study of yours. The truth I suspect is this having never thought proper to assign to the Company any part of the profit by an article they think they are themselves entitled to the whole. But as the plan of their emoluments provided you approve of it is fixed I shall certainly not propose any alteration in their favour on the contrary having taken into consideration the very extensive capital which is required for carrying on the

trade of salt, betel and tobacco, and the very great profits which will arise to individuals, greater perhaps than even the highest merit can entitle them to, and without doubt greater than is consistent with your interest, I shall soon propose in Council that if the net profits exceed 50 per cent, which I believe will be the case, the surplus shall be brought to the Company's credit. Perquisites in what shape so ever introduced, unless they be allowed of by your authority, I consider as a fraud upon the Company or distress upon individuals. Those who are not contented with such noble advantages, as the share in salt added to the privileges of the shipping and inland trade, are too rapacious in their disposition to merit or indeed to be entrusted with any rank in your service.

14 Permit me gentlemen to return you my most grateful acknowledgements, for the confidence you are pleased to repose in me by the 40th paragraph of your General Letter of the 15th February 1765, in relation to the important article of the salt trade and though I hope my conduct in your service will entitle me to your approbation in every other instance, I cannot but congratulate myself on the success of that particular plan, since it was originally proposed by me during my voyage to India. The only doubt that arose with me was whether the management of the trade of salt, betel, and tobacco, should be entrusted to Europeans or to natives, and although I acquiesced with the rest of the members of the Select Committee in having it carried on by the free merchants, give me leave to assure you my acquiescence proceeded rather from a principle of humanity than a conviction that it was more for the interest of the Company, or for the interest of the Society. But as every day's experience demonstrates the impropriety of the present mode, it becomes my duty to explain to you my sentiments on that subject.

15 The original capital for carrying on this trade being 24 laak which is speedily to be encased to 32 and the salt being to be disposed of at so many different and distant parts of the country gives room for boundless expense. An astonishing number of boats must be provided and kept in constant repair and armies of sepoys must be maintained to protect them as well as the agents at their several places of residence. These sepoys under the sanction of their master's name will lay the whole country under contribution wherever they go. Remonstrances and complaints without number will be made by the country government and the revenues in which you are more immediately affected will fall short. These agents besides drawing 5 per cent upon the net sales, will build elegant houses for their own convenience and I verily believe that an hundred and fifty thousand pounds, will scarce defray the extraordinary, and in my opinion useless expense. By confining the sale of salt, to Calcutta, Dacca, and two or three other principal places where the salt is produced, all those inconveniences will be remedied, the Company will receive as much as they do upon the present plan, the immoderate charges of agents, boatmen, houses, boats, and sepoys, will be saved, the capital need be but half what it now is, and consequently the interest of a large sum of money will not be lavished, instead of confused and complicated accounts and returns not [*sic*] in 2 years, the accounts will be simple and plain and the returns immediate, but what weighs more with me than all the arguments hitherto advanced is, that we shall avoid the odious imputation of monopoly. Thousands of the natives will have profits out of this article by purchasing it at two or three places only,

and disposing of it afterwards all over the country for I propose that no European whatever shall have any further concern in it

16. If you should think proper to adopt this new mode of carrying on the salt trade<sup>1</sup> and agree with me in the expediency of withdrawing all the free merchants humanity will call upon you to make some provision for those who are deserving of your favour I cannot in justice to the characters of the following gentlemen avoid recommending them to your consideration Their age behaviour and experience entitle them to the rank of factors and I doubt not they will become meritorious servants of the Company

Mr Archdekin

" Baillic

" Bensley

" Blomer

" Colham

" Craigie

Mr Dalrymple

" Kellican

" Knott

" Laster

" Mudie

" Yates

Mr Leithcullier

The very sensible behaviour of Mr Ducarel upon the signing of the memorial of the servants to the Court of Directors obliges me to point out to you as particularly deserving of your favour Although he was only appointed a writer last year yet his age and understanding qualify him for a higher station Some encouragement you will undoubtedly bestow upon him for his conduct in the late affair

17. In my former letters I have said and I now repeat that if some means be not devised to prevent the sudden growth of fortunes among your younger servants the Government must soon perish If I cannot obtain belief let futurity speak for me Our influence is so extensive and the ways of acquiring fortunes by trade only are so various that some bounds must be put to them The whole trade of Bengal has I find been monopolized by your servants, their agents and *gumstubs* Thousands of the natives are starving for want of those their accustomed profits which are now diverted and confined to one particular channel and the servants so far from making a moderate use of the power which they enjoy through your influence make not only the interest of the inhabitant subservient to their own will but the interest of the Company also They are even of opinion that the advantages of trade which I have always considered as an indulgence of yours to them is as much their right as the Company I learn from very good authority that there are not less than 800 factories established throughout the country by your servants or by their agents who either carry on the trade for their masters or for themselves under the sanction of their master names Judge now whether the government continued upon such a plan can long subsist and whether the time might not come when the whole body of servants would threaten to resign your service upon your attempting to exert any authority over them inconsistent with their own views and designs

18. Formerly instead of rationing Company servants at the different *amunas* that branch of trade was carried on by the *dhukies* in return A general exaction among them to increase the price of *gum* and their perpetrate having refused to the country government *let it rest on my* and they did not comply with their request and were in your debt were the

principal reasons for your dropping that method of providing your investments, those reasons, are now entirely at an end, you are become sovereigns of the country yourselves, you can oblige them to perform their contracts, and keep up to the musters, you can attach their persons and effects wherever they be, the large and needless expense of sepoy, factories, and *asswarries*, incurred to set off the grandeur and authority of young writers (for such most of the Residents at present are), will be saved and if at any time the cloths should fall short in quantity or quality, you can send to the different *aurungs*, an intelligent member of the Board as occasional supervisor to remedy the evil. This I am persuaded would be the means of a great saving to the Company and could be no impediment to the collections of the revenues, it would at the same time remove much of that odium and jealousy, which we now labour under, not only from the natives but from other European nations. What is the reason that none of these inconveniences subsist on the coast of Chormandel where your sovereignty is as fully established as at Bengal? The reason is because there you have no *aurungs*, the piece goods are provided by the black merchants, and the servants cannot interfere in the country government, the method here proposed will not however put an entire stop to the evils complained of, because the factories of Cossimbuzar, Dacca and Patna, must be maintained, and some servants must be employed there but the great number stationed at the *aurungs*, being recalled to Calcutta will be in my opinion the completest possible remedy and that sudden independency which is now the lot of all then be confined to a few

19 Permit me now to acquaint you at the same time that I think some apology for my own ignorance necessary, that neither myself nor any one of the Council have known the true state of your bond debts at least Mr Sumner when he was asked the question by me declared he did not. We always understood that your bond debts were considerable but to my very great surprise upon balancing the treasury books I find them to be much greater than I could possibly have imagined. Such a discovery may give occasion for evil minded people to accuse us of imprudence in not drawing upon you to the amount of at least the 24 lack sent to China. I would not have made such public mention of this matter were I not certain that no inconvenience could arise to your affairs from it. If these provinces remain in peace as in all human probability they will, I stake my honor and reputation to you that by this time twelve month, if necessary the whole of your bond debt shall be discharged, your civil and military expences shall be defrayed, 50 lack shall be advanced for your investment, if goods to that amount can be provided, 24 laak shall again be sent to China, and every bill drawn upon us by the different presidencies in India shall be duly honored. I do not assert this without consideration, I assert it from the knowledge I have of your revenues and if any man has contradicted me in his private letters, I desire only to be judged by the event

20 Confident as I am of the deliberation and judgement, with which you will determine actions that proceed from principle, I am little apprehensive that the regulations I am establishing for the welfare of the East India Company can be overset by the combination of interested and disgusted individuals. To lay every circumstance candidly before you, is a duty I owe not only to you, but to myself, that I may be acquitted in the eyes of the world, if your



affairs in Bengal should take an unfortunate turn after I shall have resigned the charge of them.

21 A change in the morals and principles of this settlement is absolutely necessary. The only zeal for your service is centered in the few I have mentioned—General Carnac, Mr Verelst and Mr Sykes. The association lately entered into again & the proceeding of the Committee in desiring the assistance of the gentlemen of Madras was promoted by gentlemen whose rank as Counsellors in the service could not be affected by the measure and you may easily imagine that the inferior servants writers of yesterday very readily enlisted under their banners. That a remonstrance would be made by those who stood next to Council was what I always expected. But faction alone could prompt others on or below that rank to join in it. The agreement not to visit or accept of invitations from me the Governor however puerile is fact and I cannot help observing to you that the same spirit prevails against every member of the Select Committee Mr Sumner excepted. How far that gentleman may have busied himself in hopes of acquiring popularity by his dissent to a plan against which he could not propose an alternative, I will not suggest but I will observe that a man in his station appointed to succeed to the government of so corrupt so headstrong and so licentious a settlement as this is ought to have exerted himself in suppressing rather than in countenancing such an opposition. As my letters to you must become public records I am cautious of affecting the characters of individuals but my private letters to certain gentlemen who will read the contents of this, will if they judge proper to communicate (and I hereby give them liberty as a private correspondent to do so) convey to you my opinion of that gentleman even before the dispatch of the *Admiral Stevens*. In short Mr Sumner and I differ widely in our ideas of government.

22 The example we have thought proper to make by the suspension of Mr Myerndie for having interested himself so warmly in his public capacity as Secretary to the Council in the late association has awakened the rest of the young gentlemen from their dream of independency and in a few weeks I doubt not we shall see greater activity in office and more decorum out of it than has been usual for some years. As Messrs Senior Leicester and Cray who rejecting in an opportunity to promote faction have been the chief counsellors in conjunction with Mr Marriott in the affair of the memorial take their passage to Europe in these ships I think we have some chance of seeing harmony restored to Calcutta.

therefore my conduct which I have had the satisfaction to see approved and warmly supported by a disinterested majority in Committee, should in any instance meet with your disapprobation, you will not deny me the justice to acknowledge that I have been entirely actuated by a zeal for your interest and not for my own. You will consider likewise that I was not appointed to this station, in a common way, nor to answer the common purposes of a Governor, that I was not only expected to restore peace to a distracted country, but to reform the manners of a corrupt licentious settlement, and that my measures to attain that important end, are formed from a survey taken upon the spot. You will consider that without assistance, I cannot hope to see regularity and economy take place of confusion, and extravagance, in the various departments, that many, both in, and immediately next to Council, would not with zeal and integrity, co-operate in a reform of abuses, wherein themselves had been principal actors, that the class of junior servants could not furnish us with men of knowledge, or experience even in the transaction of common business, and that if it could, their principles must be too much tainted with the general corruption, to turn immediately to the side of moderation, and prevention of frauds. that if we had not requested the assistance of the Madras gentlemen, business and reformation must have absolutely stood still, till the return of the *Admiral Stevens*, and corruption, by remaining so much the longer unchecked in so many departments, would have rendered our undertaking still more precarious and difficult. Add to this that I must have been detained yet another year in the country, which neither my constitution, nor the situation of my affairs, will admit of. The main argument, however, is this, that Messrs Aldersey, Russell, Kelsall, and Floyer, are men of such unquestionable abilities, have been so much employed in public offices, are so little acquainted with Bengal luxury, and are known to be so moderate in their expectations, that no doubt can be entertained of the success of their assistance.

I have the honor to be  
with the greatest respect,  
Gentlemen,

Your most obedient and most  
humble servant,  
(signed) Clive

Calcutta,  
1 February 1766

24 Notwithstanding the part I took, for the sake of example, and good order in Government, in the suspension of Mr Majendie, I must beg leave to inform you that my wishes were to have seen him restored in a short time to the service, for his abilities when strengthened by a few years of age may render him a very useful servant, though he certainly is unfit at the age of twenty one to fill the station of Secretary which requires method and judgement. A vain-glorious opinion of his own importance together with emoluments exceeding £4,000 per annum, have in the common phrase turned his head, but he is not deficient in parts, nor, as far as I know in principle. If therefore on his arrival in England, you should find his application to you, for restoration, to be such as will enable you to grant his request, without seeming to approve of his conduct, and without directly or indirectly lowering the authority of that power by which he was suspended, I shall not consider your restoring him to his rank in the service, as any indignity offered to myself.

few whose ideas of the public good correspond with mine. Perquisites and privileges to the utmost extent and manifestly to the great detriment of your service have been so long tolerated that every attempt towards reducing your immense expences, where private interest is concerned is considered as the greatest hardship and prescription is everywhere a plea against reason and justice. In short supported though I am with a Council and a Committee strenuous in the resolution to reform abuses, I shall only be able to leave things upon a plan of amendment and it must finally rest with yourselves to give permanency and stability to Bengal by the most vigorous efforts of your power. The insight and knowledge I am endeavouring to acquire in every department will I hope enable me to lay before you materials sufficient to work upon and completely to effect the great purposes of our wish.

9 A this may probably be the last time of my troubling you by letter with my ideas of your affairs not only the Company's interest but my own honour calls upon me to represent to you that if you do not unite to a man in the exertion of your utmost abilities and in the pursuit of the most resolute and determined measures you will no longer be masters, or have the least authority over your servants. Bengal must inevitably in the space of two or three years sink under its own weight of corruption and extravagance.

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect

Calcutta  
20th March 1766

Gentlemen  
Your most obedient  
and most humble servant  
(Signed) Clive

28

LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1766

*Examination of price of imported articles—exorbitant demands made by planter of ships for passengers sailing to England—hopes for large investment in the ensuing season—Dutch opium trade—goods freighted on English ships and imported for sale in Calcutta exempted from duties—measures to check encroachment of the Hooghly river on the New Fort in Calcutta—Bills and Manners censured for misconduct—refractory spirit amongst Bengal civil servants—assistance of civilians from Madras—Ducarel's loyalty—measures to prevent abuse of dastaks by the Company's servants—forming of the military into Brigades—mutiny in the army in 1764—Company's protection withdrawn from Khizaja Moulvi and Johanna Marcat*

To the Honble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Honorable Sir

Your last advice under date the 29th of January went by the ship *Cerule* and *Kent* which received their dispatches from our Master Attendant

at Ingellee the 15th of February. They contained a summary only of your affairs from the departure of the *Admiral Stevens* for reasons which will appear in a subsequent part of this letter. We shall therefore now by the *Ponsborne* enter into a more particular detail under the established heads upon such subjects as have not been noticed in our occasional letter by the *Admiral Stevens* or in our last by the *Grenville*.

### *First of shipping*

2 The ships of last season destined for Coast and Bay all safely arrived with us, vizt, the *Grenville* the 15th October, *Speke* and *Pacifick* the 6th and 20th November, and *Ponsborne* the 20th December. The three first mentioned delivered at Fort St. George then several consignments for that Presidency, but the *Ponsborne* not having reached the Coast till late in October, and falling in with the land off Pondicherry, Captain Payne found it impracticable to beat up to Madrass against the monsoon and therefore thought it advisable to make the best of his way to this port, the packet and consignments of this ship for Madrass have been forwarded thither.

3 We informed you in our last of the destination of the *Pacifick* for Fort St. George to fill up there for Europe and of the *Speke* for Madrass, Bencoolen and China. They were accordingly dispatched from Ingellee the 15th of February.

4 Your ship, the *Admiral Watson* from Bencoolen, arrived on the Coast the 2nd October where after landing a detachment of 'epoys she was dispatched for this place, and imported the 26th November. We have appointed her for carrying home our last dispatches this year and the remainder of our investment, and she will accordingly proceed very soon after the *Ponsborne*.

5 Captain Blewitt, the late commander of the *Admiral Watson*, was unfortunately drowned in attempting to go ashore at Moco Moco. Mr Money, the chief officer, has succeeded to the command.

6 We were under great apprehension for the safety of the *Hector* and *Falmouth*, not having received any accounts of them from the time of their leaving England till lately by a letter from the gentlemen at Madrass. We are advised of the *Hector's* arriving at Rio Janeiro the 24th of August and of her having left the *Falmouth* at St. Iago in the month of May, the *Hector* is reported to have been in a leaky condition and very sickly, having lost above a hundred of her men.

7 These advices came by the *Harcourt* which arrived at Anjango the 9th of January, having left the *Royal Charlotte* at Rio Janeiro the 24th of August.

8 The arrival of the *Grenville* so late in the season and the uncertainty when we should see your other Coast and Bay ships determined us to alter the destination of the *Kent* originally intended for Bombay and to give her a loading for Europe, her departure accordingly in company with the *Grenville* we have already mentioned in the first paragraph.

9 The *Earl of Middlesex* arrived at Madras from Batavia the 31st May last, and was dispatched for Europe with a full loading the 20th October.

## LETTER TO COURT

10 We have been advised from Madrass of the safe arrival there of the *For* early in September the *True Briton* the 2nd October the *Hardwicke* the 11th and *Clive* the 22nd November after landing the recruits they were dispatched round to Bombay and it is with pleasure we observe the gentlemen there will be able to provide them all with cargoes for Europe.

9 Novr  
3d Decr

11 We are advised from Fort Marlbro that the *Royal George* arrived there the 7th of September with 149 slaves for the service of the West Coast the *Thames* and *Grosvenor* sailed the 30th July where by letters from the supracargoes of the thence for China they were safely arrived with all the ships destined thither of last season

12 In our last we mentioned the arrival of the *Argo* frigate at Malacca in a distressed condition She arrived at Madrass the 8th February and we hear it is Captain Aslick's intention to proceed directly for Europe.

13 Your know the *Cuddalore* which was sent to attend the *Argo* to China by the eastern track returned hither in December

14 Your ship *London* from China and Sooloo with a detachment of the troops from Manilla put in at Bunnipatnam in distress the 28th June and as she could not make her passage at that season of the year the Chief and Council of Vizagapatnam after landing the troops dispatched her to us. Soon after the gentlemen at Madrass recommending her to be sold as they had no further service for her she was put up at outcry and disposed of for 12,450 rupees.

1 Jul  
to Madra  
10 Aug 11  
2 Sept

15 The *Illinois* one of your ships belonging to the Madras establishment by likewise at the recommendation of the President and Council there been disposed of at public outcry for rupees 16,006

16 The gentlemen at Fort Marlbro having made earnest application to us for an early supply of stores the *Syren* now was employed on that service and sailed the 28th December

17 We have laid aside all thought of establishing a marine yard at Chittagong for the reason mentioned in the 19th paragraph of your command of the 15th February 1765 and we must have recourse to Bombay for the wharves that may be required for the river service as they are not only cheaper but of a better construction than such as have been provided at Chittagong

18 The pilot master and mate in the marine delivered in a petition last September setting forth their inability to support themselves and families in their present expence by reason of the enormous price of every article of expence particularly that of house rent which we are careful at all times to avoid the increase of all manner to any of your servants yet we could not but comply with the request being fully sensible of the justice of the representation. Indeed it became necessary in order to prevent the prejudice your service would have sustained by their quitting which some of them had actually done for a better [sic]

2 Sept

19 The Master Attendant has since represented to us the difficulties and impediments he meets with in carrying on the business of the maine from the small wages the artificers employed therein receive compared with what is paid at the New Fort and other offices  
 26 Octr This matter lays with us for consideration and we shall be carefull to settle it on the most reasonable footing and take every other measure that may appear necessary for establishing this material branch of business under a proper regulation

20 The 17th paragraph of your commands dated the 15th February were immediately communicated to the Master Attendant with the strictest injunctions to pay the most particular regard to the taking frequent and accurate surveys of the River which we shall take care is punctually attended to

21 The commanders of your ships from Europe represented to us the frequent desertion of their men and as the same desired our authority for their searching country vessells where it was imagined they had sometimes taken refuge with the connivance of their masters, we could not object to a compliance with their request and hope it will prove effectual in putting a stop to this evil in future  
 9 Decr

22 A complaint was made to us by Mr Hammond, chief officer of the *Asia*, of his having been discharged from his station by Captain Inglis without any warning or reason assigned We called upon Captain  
 24 Octr Inglis in consequence, who represented to us that both the  
 4 Novr other officers and the whole ship's crew had complained to  
 18 Novr him of his arrogant behaviour and general ill treatment  
 25 Do of the men Captain Inglis further exhibited a charge  
 2d Decr against Mr Hammond for encouraging a mutiny on board  
 23d Do the ship at the time she was ordered upon service at Bombay The matter was immediately enquired into and upon the whole we judged that although Mr Hammond's conduct with respect to his treatment of the ships company was highly culpable yet there was not sufficient foundation for his dismissal, but the charge of his encouraging the seamen in their objections to go upon service against the Malwans<sup>1</sup> appeared to us a crime of so high a nature that we immediately discharged him from your service For a particular account of our proceedings on this occasion we beg leave to refer you to the minutes of Consultation noted in the margin

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

23 We have not yet made tryal of the woolens received by the ships of last season Sensible of the importance of this branch of your trade, we shall ever be attentive to the means of extending it, with this view we determined to postpone your sales from the usual time to that of the  
 30th Decr 1765 *pooneah* which on the grant of the *dewannee* to the Company was intended to have been held at Calcutta, having reason to imagine that the vast concourse of zemindars and other people of substance and credit resorting hither on that occasion would have

taken off a large quantity Although circumstances have intervened to prevent its taking place this season we have not on that  
 3d March 1 66. account altered the time fixed for the sales which will accordingly be made the 1st of May

24 The *Ponsborne* brought 100 bales of the last years consignments for Bombay which in conformity to your directions have been forwarded thither on two country ships having as much of our own as we shall probably be able to dispose of

25 In the indents now forwarded in triplicate for the Import Warehouse the goods for sale and those for the consumption of the place are distinguished in separate columns and to prevent mistakes in future samples are now sent of the particular sorts of copper most in demand here an account whereof makes a number in the packet

26 The Import Warehouse account remain[ing] now forwarded in triplicate is made very explicit as you have been pleased to direct and the ballance of each sortment of copper remaining particularly specified

27 Upon altering the destination of the *Kent* as mentioned in the 8th paragraph we took the first opportunity of forwarding to Bombay the consignments she had on board for that Presidency

28 The considerable supply of 24 laak of rupees provided this season for the China investment of which we advised you particularly in our address by the *Kent* and *Crenville* will we flatter ourselves sufficiently evince to you that we have paid the strictest attention to your injunctions for assisting this important branch of your trade

29 We still abide by our former resolution of not granting bills of exchange upon you to any considerable amount beyond what has been already granted by the *Crenville* and *Kent* our reasons are as follow had we drawn upon you so far as twenty or even thirty laaks of rupees, that amount would have been so inadequate to the demands of individuals that the French Dutch and Danes would have been supplied with what money they had occasion for and as much as individuals would chuse to risk by foreign remittances, and also the certainty of our being able within the space of a twelve month to discharge the whole of your bond debts if necessary which are now reduced to £503,279 5-3 and we shall shortly forbid any further sums being received into your treasury at interest

30 The Madeira wine we have been supplied with this season has turned out very well except nine pipes which were rather inferior to the rest and all the casks were in good condition as appears by the Import Ware House keepers report which comes a number in the packet We must here take the liberty of requesting you will encrease the supply of this article as the 120 pipes received this season is far insufficient to be shared amongst the great number of civil and military servants of the establishment and we flatter ourselves you will not deny us this reasonable indulgence so far as the circumstances of your warehouse will admit of it

31 The five pipes of our consignment you were pleased to order might

be set apart for Fort Marlbro' were taken out at Madras and forwarded from thence

32 In consequence of the 53rd paragraph of your letter dated the 21st November 1764, we shall take every precaution for the detection of illicit trade particularly on the ships from Madena and have issued the necessary orders for that purpose to the Custom Master and Import Warehousekeeper

33 Pursuant to the orders contained in the 27th paragraph of your commands dated the 15th February, Mr Walton has been appointed to the charge of the gun powder works and a committee nominated to inspect the same consisting of the Military Storekeeper, Chief Engineer and Commanding Officer of the Artillery who have been furnished with the necessary instructions and we hope their attention herein will contribute to the improvement of this manufacture as we are truly sensible of its importance Mr Walton has been much indisposed ever since his arrival here, and so short a time in charge of this branch that we think it to no purpose to send you samples of powder until we have some of his manufacturing

34 The exorbitant prices demanded of late by most of the commanders and officers of the Europe ships for the necessaries imported by them, induced us (particularly as they fall heavy on the military whose allowances have been

24 Octr lately so much reduced) to think of some means to prevent this growing evil To this end we fixed a certain price to each article affording a very handsome profit to the importers, the particulars whereof appear on the minutes of Consultation the 24th October and as we could not doubt that the inhabitants would readily acquiesce in a measure taken for the general good we determined at the same time that all persons who might be detected in purchasing a larger proportion of those necessaries than might be wanted for their own consumption or the supply of their constituents in order to dispose of the same, should immediately on such detection forfeit the Company's protection, and further that we should prosecute according to law all persons who might forestall the market by making purchases down the River or at any other places so as to prevent the articles being duly exposed to sale in Calcutta Advertisements were accordingly published to this effect and notification hereof given to the commanders of your ships as they arrived

35 It is with concern we observe that little or no regard has been paid to this restriction and that the captains finding sufficient purchasers upon their own terms continued to sell their commodities at the usual extravagant rate As this restriction has been attempted purely for the benefit of the settlement, we must request you will interpose with your authority to render it effectual by threatening with your displeasure such commanders as do not strictly comply therewith

36 We have at the same time to take notice to you of the exorbitant demands made by the captains from passengers to England you will be surprized to learn that not less than five thousand rupees have been demanded from and given by more than one individual This is so gross an imposition, and as it is rather likely to increase than diminish unless you interpose and prevent it, to the great inconvenience of people of moderate



fortunes who will be in a manner disabled from revisiting their native country we hope you will give such orders as may in future limit your commanders to reasonable prices.

37 We shall take care in future to transmit regular abstracts of the invoices and specify in our advices the consignments that may occasionally be made on your ships to the different presidencies as directed in the 31st paragraph of your commands of the 15th February

38 We could wish you had fully complied with our indent for tent cloth as by long experience we find it answer the purposes of the field much better than country cloth We therefore request that in future the whole quantity of this article indented for may be sent out.

### *Thurdly of investments*

39 No more of the Barnagore cloths, of which musters were sent you by the *Boscawen* have been since manufactured we have directed one hundred pieces of each sort which are now on the looms but we are afraid they will not be finished in time to go by these ships.

40 The gentlemen at Cossimbuzar have the strictest orders to encrease the provision of raw silk which has hitherto been greatly prevented by the want of winders. The early advances that have been made the influence we now have in the country the preference that will in future be given to your business to that of other merchants with the assistance of Radnagore silk which Mr Verelst is endeavouring to bring to the quality and price of that of Cossimbuzar we hope will considerably encrease this part of the investment for the ensuing season

41 Your orders relative to the goods proper for the African trade we  
 Gent Ltr 15 have directed to be carried into execution and the greatest  
 Feby 1 65 143d attention shall be paid thereto  
 Jara

42 Our reasons for the increase and decrease of the several articles in your list of investments you will receive in this packet to which we beg leave to refer you and we here summarily observe that you will find an encrease on the investment of this season if compared with the medium of those for eight years past of near ten laaks of rupees besides which we shall have a pretty considerable ballance remaining in our warehouse

43 The large and early advances already made to the subordinates and *aurings* give us the greatest reason to hope for a very large and well provided investment for the next season It shall be our endeavour to adhere strictly to the list received per *Tillury* and to confine whatever increase we may make to such articles as we have unavoidably fell short of in the provision of this season a particular account whereof is stated in our reasons for the increase and decrease now forwarded

44 A demand was made upon us by Meer A broff of CBr 684 56 for  
 20th Ma cl this delivered into the *cottah* at Patna for the Company's  
 investment before the troubles in 173 and the same being  
 supported with proper vouchers we ordered it to be paid

45 The Export Warehouse Keeper lately represented to us an encrease in the price of one dispatch of silk from Cossimbuzar although it was inferior to the former despatch received, the reasons whereof are assigned in a letter from the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar dated the 1st November and to prevent the prices of this commodity fluctuating in your invoices on the different dispatches of our ships, we have ordered the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar in future to specify the cost of what the whole will turn out on an average for the season

46 Mr Delaporte represented to us that his residence would be most usefull at Calcutta to examine the bales as they are received from the different factories and *aurungs* and applied at the same time for an addition to the salary you were pleased to appoint for him, assuring us it was insufficient for his support We have thereupon fixed him at the Presidency and granted him a further allowance of 100 rupees per month which we hope you will approve as we are persuaded that his knowledge and assiduity in the branch he is employed in will be of great service to your investment and in which his conduct has already given us the greatest satisfaction

47 We have been disappointed by the late arrival of the latter part of the saltpetre investment which left Patna in the month of November and has been delayed on the way ever since owing as we are informed to the bad condition of the boats and the negligence of the people who have it in charge We have ordered 5200 maunds to be laden on the *Ponsborne* but have given directions to the commander, as the season is so far advanced, not to wait a moment for it, or delay in the receipt of the bale goods, should he not receive to this amount, the Master Attendant will endorse what may be deficient off the bill of lading and notice the same in his advice of her dispatch The several dispatches of petre this season have been as follow

On board the <i>Admiral Steevens</i>	3000 Mds
<i>Grenville</i>	9000
<i>Kent</i>	7500
Via Bombay Lord <i>Anson</i>	8000
<i>Prince of Wales</i>	1500
<i>Diana</i>	8000
Via Madras <i>Pacifick</i>	7660
<i>Ponsborne</i>	5200
	<hr/>
	49860 Mds

48 We cannot close this head without remarking that the Maulda provision of goods under the direction of Mr Barwell has turned out extremely good and that gentleman's conduct in the management of this branch of your business is much to our satisfaction

*Fourthly of the trade of India, transactions relative to the European powers, country government &c*

49 With respect to the inland trade of salt, beetle and tobacco, the Select Committee inform us they have been so full and explicit in their advices that nothing remains for us to say on that subject

50 In the 19th paragraph of our letter per *Royal George* dated the 29th September 1763 you were advised that in consequence of the slow march of our troops, an address was made to the Dutch desiring them to collect in the saltpetre belonging to both our factories during the war with *Cossim Aly Cawn* and that when it would be dispatched down they would order our proportion to be delivered us. Their answer intimating that they were little disposed to assist our affairs determined us to use every means for securing as large a share of that year's petre as possible and for that purpose Major Adams was wrote to to take possession of the *aurungs* and all the petre that could be collected without loss of time. The Dutch reply stands minuted in Consultation the 17th September 63

51 In our letter per *Osterly* of the 19th December 1763 you were further advised that the Dutch had taken advantage of the troubles to avail themselves of the opium trade in so much that we were likely to meet with difficulty in procuring even the small quantity wanted for Fort Marlborough. Their original letters relative to that affair were forwarded by the same opportunity

52 We wrote also very fully by the *Osterly* in answer to the complaints of the Dutch concerning the article of opium referring at the same time for a more particular explanation to our minutes of Consultation the 3rd October of the same year as well as to Mr M Cure himself who was then on his departure for Europe. There being the only lights we have or could obtain on that subject we can only again refer to them

53 The Chief and Council at Chinsurah having made complaint to us of an insult offered to their chief Mr Vernet by Captain Waple we called Mr Waple before us who not excusing himself to our satisfaction we obliged him to make an acknowledgement suitable to the insult he had been guilty of and satisfactory to the Dutch

54 Upon a remonstrance from the Dutch at Houghly concerning the proportion of saltpetre intended for them this season we have agreed to supply them with the proportion of one third part of all the *cutch* petre wherever produced either at Patna or any of the *aurungs* leaving them at liberty to refine it in the same manner as we do that for our own investment

55 In consequence of Mr Law the French Governor's application for a supply of saltpetre to ballast two homeward bound French ships we agreed to supply him with nine thousand maunds which could be spared from our own occasion. We have also at the earnest request of the Dutch spared them 8000 bag of saltpetre to be deducted from their proportion on its way from Patna

56 The commissary appointed on the part of Mr Law to receive charge of the French factory at Ballasore objected to the receiving it in its present condition and made a demand of three thousand five hundred rupees for damage sustained since the conclusion of the peace to put an end to the dispute we agreed to pay three thousand rupees but Mr Law seeing the

matter in the light we did as being of a trifling nature, very genteely declined receiving any consideration whatever

57 Some time ago arrived in this River a ship belonging to the King of Pegue which had been shamefully deserted by her commander, Captain Gibson The *noqueda* either to take advantage of the  
 6 Janry Captain's absence, or through necessity as he pleaded made her over to Mr Dolben, the chief at Ingeram, for six thousand pagodas, conditionally that the said ship should belong to him if not redeemed in six months, which time being expired, Mr Dolben sent her here on his own account loaded with rice Taking into consideration the many dangerous  
 22d Janrv consequences which might ensue not only to the Company but likewise to individuals by stopping all their trade and shipping in the ports of Pegue, we came to a resolution to secure the ship on the King's account We ordered the Master Attendant to give her a slight repair and send hands on board sufficient to navigate her to Pegue, this step we hope will induce the King not only to release the ships if he has detained any and live in harmony with us in future but likewise to defray all the expences which we have ordered to be laid before His Majesty for that purpose

58 As we had reason to apprehend many inconveniences would arise from continuing the practice of levying duties on all goods freighted on English ships whether first landed in Calcutta or not, we came to a resolution  
 9 Decr that in future no duties shall be collected on such goods as may be imported for sale in the settlement Our reasons for this measure appear fully on the minutes of Consultation the 9th December last to which we beg leave to refer

*Fifthly of fortifications, buildings and revenues*

59 We shall pay particular regard to your orders in confining our attention to the compleating the body of the New Fort and that it be conducted with the utmost economy, the state of these fortifications are particularly described in the Engineers last address to your honors which went a number in the packet per *Kent* and *Grenville*, accompanied with the several plans required in the 50th paragraph of your letter dated the 15th February 1765

60 It is with much concern we have for some time past observed very dangerous encroachments of the River upon our New Fort, and in order that  
 16 Septr the most effectual measures might be concerted to prevent  
 9 Decr their further progress, we desired Mr Call might be permitted to come up from Madrass to assist with his advice on so important an occasion His presence could not be immediately dispensed with from the Coast, we therefore appointed a committee consisting of the Chief Engineer, the Master Attendant and Civil Architect to consider of means for applying a remedy, in consequence whereof they proposed a scheme to effect it by means of placing a front of substantial piles against the banks of the River strengthened with thick plank behind the piling secured with brick work and a second row of piles to be drove between the bank and low water mark of the same extent in order to break the force of the water and to secure the

ground between them. The estimate of the expence if done with teak and saul timbers amounted to six laaks six thousand rupees and considering that the importance of the object would neither admit of neglect or delay we ordered it to be carried into execution with all possible dispatch. For further particulars we refer you to the minutes of Consultation noted in the margin.

21st Decr  
6 Janry

61 A place of retirement from business being thought absolutely necessary for the President we have purchased the house at Dum Dum for Rs 23,000.

24 Octr

62 The Select Committee proceedings will inform you of the measures they have taken for regulating your revenues and in future you will be advised on this subject through the usual channel of your President and Council.

*Sixthly and seventhly of covenant and military servants and accounts*

63 The writers of last season appointed to this establishment are arrived and have been stationed to different offices except Mr Faugon who died in the passage and Mr George Bright supposed to be on the *Hector* or *Falmouth*.

64 Conformably to your repeated orders we called the writers before us on their arrival and questioned them concerning the treatment they had met with on their passage who declared themselves satisfied with the behaviour of the different commanders in justice however to Captain Barclay we cannot omit mentioning that the gentlemen who came passengers on board the *Pacific* expressed in very particular terms their satisfaction at the attention and civilities which he shewed them.

65 Messrs Martin, Johnstone, Lewis and Pearce have in consequence of your orders been entertained as writers upon your list of covenanted servants. Their covenants properly executed were transmitted in the packet by the *Grenville*.

66 The delay in requiring Mr Randall to execute his covenants as a free merchant escaped our attention as he never made application to us for that purpose they are now duly executed and come a number in the packet.

67 By the *Grenville* and *Kent* we transmitted in duplicate such of the covenants concerning presents as had been executed by the civil and military servants of this establishment. Those which have since been executed wait on you by this ship and we hope to have the whole completed the next dispatch. The blank ones sent out were by no means sufficient for the great number of military officers at this Presidency and we have not only been obliged to have them prepared in manuscript but desired some printed copies to be struck off at Madras to supply the deficiency.

68 Mr Winley the only servant remaining here of the Bombay establishment who came round with Mr Spencer will shortly return to his station agreeable to your orders.

69 Messrs Rolfe and Altham whom you have been pleased to appoint factors on the West Coast establishment have had notice given them to repair to their stations the latter is since dead and the former has accordingly proceeded. Mr Howman represents that his stay here some time longer will be requisite to enable him to adjust Mr Vanstart's concern.

70 In consequence of your orders concerning Mr Bagnol from the West Coast, he has been admitted as a supernumerary surgeon on this establishment

71 In the *Grenville's* packet we transmitted a list of the surgeons employed on this establishment and shall do so annually as you have been pleased to direct as well as be attentive that you are put to no more charge on this account than is absolutely necessary

72 We hope your expectations of Mr Walton whom you have sent out in the capacity of overseer of the powder works will be fully answered He shall not want encouragement or assistance from us, and in case his abilities in the business he has charge of shew him deserving of it, shall be promoted as you have been pleased to direct

73 In August last we received a letter from Mr Marriott, chief of the factory at Benaris, containing a representation and complaint against Mr Bolts  
 16 Augt the second, in consequence of his having of his own authority confined a merchant of the city in his house for two days Mr Bolts immediately gave in his answer and at the same time set forth many circumstances in complaint against Mr Marriott and his banian, particularly for renting the mint and exercising the offices of *aumeeny*, *phousdarry* and *cutwall* contrary to the orders of the Board

74 In order that these reciprocal complaints between Mr Marriott and Mr Bolts might be thoroughly investigated, we thought it necessary to order those gentlemen to the Presidency with such evidences as they might have on either part to produce in support of their accusations leaving Mr Sage in charge of the factory

75 Messrs Marriott and Bolts having accordingly repaired to Calcutta, were summoned before the Board and interrogated particularly on the subject  
 17 Febry of the charges exhibited against each other, the Board thereupon reconsidering the whole proceedings unanimously agreed that Mr Marriott was blameable in renting the mint knowing not only that it was against the orders of the Board for a servant of the Company to hold any post or employment under the country government but that it was included in the King's grant of the Benaris country and therefore that he should bring to the Company's credit the money he paid for it to the King together with the advantages arising on restamping their specie At the same time we hope in consideration of Mr Marriott's general good character that you will be satisfied with this sentence on which occasion he delivered in a minute as appears in Consultation

76 In regard to Mr Bolts, we could not but deem him highly deserving of censure for the disrespect he was guilty of towards Mr Marriott, his chief, in taking upon himself to confine the merchant, Sadaloo, nor could he be allowed any merit in the discovery of the mint being farmed by Mr Marriott, as there is reason to believe he was too much influenced thereto from his being refused a share with him in the advantages

77 Mr Claude Delaporte as administrator to the estate of Lieut William Ellerson deceased, addressed a letter to us in September last accompanying a demand of money said to be due from the Company to the deceased amounting to ARs 20,498 which he had been refused payment of by the Commissary

General and desiring the same might be adjusted to which we replied that on his producing the ordinary vouchers it should be duly discharged other wise that his claim could not be admitted whereupon Mr Delaporte the administrator having no such vouchers hrs for his own indemnification commenced an amicable suit with the Company in the Mayor's Court.

18 The presence of a chief and council at Benaris being judged an useless expence to the Company and not at all necessary for the collection of the temporal revenues we came to a resolution of keeping  
4 Febr Messrs Marriott and Bolts at the Presidency and have appointed Mr Sage to be Resident untill the whole of the *tuncaw* money on account of the treaty with Shuja Dowla be discharged when the factory will be withdrawn altogether

79 In order to reduce the hospital expences both in field and garrison which hitherto have been a very great and heavy charge upon your revenues,  
11 Novr we came to a resolution to contract with the surgeons for supplying all the hospital charges bedding lodging and Europe medicines excepted at the rate of eighteen *sanaut* rupees a man per month which turns out about 18 pence per day and 6 pence less than is allowed to His Majesty's hospitals in India

80 It was with a view further to promote diligence amongst your younger servants that we took upon us to make so large allowances to the Secretary and his assistants and we are well pleased that it has met with your approbation Upon this occasion we think it would be more for your interest were this office a well than that of Sub Accountant less liable to such a frequent change of hands as at present We would therefore recommend to you to send out persons properly qualified and with good constitutions to remain with a certain and fixed rank and handsome salaries which with their priviledges in trade might be a reward adequate to the extraordinary labor of those employes and their being precluded from the advantage of rising in your service

81 You have already been made acquainted with the strange combination entered into by the servants here wholly subversive of all order and government an extravagance to which we cannot suppose they would have proceeded had they not been encouraged by the sanction and concurrence of some of the seniors in your service such a refractory spirit arose therefrom as to have occasioned an immediate suspension of business in the several departments and this we trust will be admitted by you in apology for not being more full and explicit in our last.

82 The Select Committee have laid before us the reasons which induced them to request the assistance of the gentlemen from the Madras Presidency vizt Mr C. Claud Russell William Alderby Thomas Kelsal and Charles Hoyer They arrived here the 6th of February and have taken their seats at the Board and we make no doubt but they will do credit to their choice and that the publick business will in future be conducted with regularity and dispatch Mr Russell has been particularly assiduous in the business allotted  
9 Febr him in the Secretary's office but we with concern find his health so much affected by it that we must deprive ourselves of the services we had room to expect from his abilities in that department However a thorough regulation will we think depend more immediately

on assistance from England since your covenanted servants seldom continue long enough to be qualified for that important office

83 The Committee have already informed you of the suspension of Mr Majendie who takes his passage in the *Admiral Watson*, their proceedings being entered on the minutes of Consultation the 22nd January, we beg leave to refer you to them for the reasons

84 We cannot on this occasion omit doing justice to Mr Du Carel who had been drawn in precipitately to sign the memorial addressed to you on the occasion of calling the Madras gentlemen to this settlement but a moment's reflection made him sensible of his imprudence and rather than persist in what he now judged to be wrong, he had fortitude enough to withdraw, although he has by that means subjected himself to the obloquy and ill treatment of his fellow servants, such an instance of resolution does him singular honor, and we flatter ourselves will so far recommend him to your favor as to procure him a rise in your service

85 Mr Charles Bently is another instance deserving your notice on this occasion, who from the first disapproved and absolutely refused any ways engaging in their imprudent and disrespectfull resolutions, though he also drew upon himself the contempt of his fellow servants

86 Mr Bartholemew Plaisted who during his long services has acted to your satisfaction, we beg leave to recommend as very deserving of much to our and favor and your notice

87 We have taken every means in our power to prevent an improper use being made of the *dustucks* your servants are indulged with, such as are entitled to this privilege took the oath you have thought proper to prescribe for them on the 3rd instant, and we 12 Febrv have ordered that it be taken hereafter twice every year, on the 1st of January and 1st of July, and as we hope this measure will prevent numberless disputes in the country which have heretofore been complained of 3d March by the Government, we are determined to have it punctually

adhered to

88 Captain Keble, the Master Attendant, has solicited us to intercede with you for his being indulged with the privilege of a *dustuck* The superintendency of your marine is a charge of the utmost importance and attended with much trouble and we hope these considerations with those offered in his letter 10th March to which we beg leave to refer, will induce you to a ready compliance with his request

89 Mr Gray when at the Board last year produced some fir or pine spars which he procured up the country where any quantity of pitch, tar or rosin, he imagined might be had, and offered to our consideration whether this discovery might be of service to the Company, on consulting the Master Attendant, he was of opinion they would serve for masts and yards while they are fresh and full of rosin but 9 Septe was in doubt how far they may be equal to Europe ones when directed We permitted the Resident at Maulda to prosecute this scheme by way of trial how far it would answer, but as it has been too much the practice of individuals to supply the Company's occasions with a view to their own interest and advantage, we have made it

14 Octe



a rule to obtain our supplies from the country government at the first cost which will be attended only with the charge of cutting and bringing down

90 Since our last advices by the *Greenville* and *Kent* we received further minutes from Messrs *Leicester* and *Gray* dated at *Inglessee* copies of which are entered after the Consultation referred to in the margin

3 March. too much of your and of our time having already been taken up with the altercations which have passed with those gentlemen we think it unnecessary to make any further animadversions on their conduct

91 The proceedings against *Ramnaut* Mr *Gray's* banian being brought to a conclusion who in excuse for his own conduct pleads acting by order and under the authority of his master the President General *Carnic* and Mr *Verelst* being the only members present at the examination Mr *Sumner* excepted who is indisposed and all those being objected against by Mr *Gray* who is no longer in your service we beg leave to decline giving any opinion at all but submit the whole of that gentleman's conduct and of his banian to your decision.

92 Mr *Parry* your chaplain at this settlement having performed the marriage ceremony between Mr *John Johnstone* and Miss *Caroline Keene* without first obtaining the consent of the President or even Octr giving him any previous intimation according to the custom in your settlements established by your orders, we thought such an omission not only a disrespect shewn to the President but also that it might be productive of many other clandestine marriages which might be attended with the worst of consequences and therefore dismissed him the service Lord *Clive* soon after interceding in behalf of Mr *Parry* he was again restored to your service and we hope the example of his dismissal will be a sufficient warning to prevent the like practices in future.

93 Mr *Drake* lately arriving here in a country ship from *China* after a series of misfortunes since his departure from *Manilla* we accommodated him 1 Febr with the *Cuddalore* schooner to convey him to *Madras* and he accordingly sailed a few days ago

94 Mr *Pouchon* by the last dispatch made a remittance in your cash which we have reason to believe was the amount of Mr *Ferrand's* estate

95 We advised in our letters of the 30th September and 29th January of our having fully carried into execution your commands of the 1st June 1764 respecting the forming your military into brigades. On this subject we cannot avoid repeating the necessity of your supplying us amply with recruits to complet and keep up the complement of men allotted for the service of the Presidency which you must be sensible is of the last consequence to the security of your important acquisitions in these provinces

96 For the several promotions in your military corps since our advices 11 March by the *Admiral Stretens* we refer to the minutes of Consultation noted in the margin

11 June  
11 Dec  
1st Nov  
1 Febr

97 Mr *Francis Bottom* who acted as *Lavmacher* to a detachment

appointed for Midnapore, having on his way thither been the means of saving  
 4 April your treasure in a hard gale of wind, and thereby sustained  
 the loss of many of his own effects, we could not let such  
 an instance of merit pass unrewarded, and therefore made him a present of  
 twelve hundred rupees which we are persuaded will meet with your approval

98 In a former letter we mentioned the abilities of Mr Fortnom your  
 Civil Architect We should imagine it would be more consistent with the nature  
 of that employ to appoint him on the civil establishment, which therefore we  
 take the liberty of recommending to your honours, and are persuaded that his  
 future as well as his past conduct will entitle him to any indulgences you may  
 be pleased to confer on him

99 Captain Thomas Fenwicke, whom you permitted to return to England  
 upon furlow, died in October last

100 Lieutenant James Forbes of the 89th Regiment being particularly re-  
 commended by Major Munro, and desirous of being admitted into the Com-  
 1st April pany's service even as the youngest of that rank, although  
 an old officer in His Majesty's service, we complied with his  
 application and have given him a commission accordingly, thinking that the  
 younger officers could not with reason be dissatisfied on the occasion

101 In April last a remonstrance was made to the Board by some of the  
 captains in the service against Captain Macpherson's admission on this estab-  
 8th April lishment, who had purchased Captain Whichcote's battalion  
 of scapoys An answer was returned to this remonstrance  
 that the appointment could not be deemed injurious to the corps in general,  
 since Captain Macpherson was not incorporated from the Bombay Detachment  
 15 Febr'y as they seemed to imagine, but came in by an exchange  
 with Captain Whichcote, several other reasons induced the  
 then President and Council to confirm his appointment, but as Captain Mac-  
 pherson voluntarily offered to sacrifice his interest in order to remove any  
 cause of dissatisfaction to the officers of the army, his commission was returned  
 and one granted him with rank from the day of his admission into the service  
 here This circumstance happened in the time of the late President Mr Spen-  
 cer, upon which occasion we must observe that we shall never approve or admit  
 of exchanges among your military officers, more particularly when they are  
 the price of money and not of services At the same time remonstrances from  
 your officers must ever be discouraged, as we are but too sensible of their ill  
 tendency.

102 Captains Macklean, White, Brown and Scotland have resigned their  
 16 Decr commissions, and have been granted the usual certificates  
 6 Janry in testimony of their good services

103 In November last General Carnac delivered in a charge against  
 Mr Fullarton, surgeon at Patna, accusing him of being privy to a treasonable  
 11 Novr letter said to have been wrote by Nundcomai to Bulwand  
 Sing in the year 1764 Mr Fullarton was in consequence  
 called down to vindicate himself Our proceedings herein appear in our  
 Consultation of the 25th February, and we must remark on this occasion, that

although Mr Fullarton is acquitted of any ill design in concealing his knowledge of the letter from General Carnac he appears to have been remiss in not giving him intelligence of the discovery which was however more particularly the business of Messrs. Batson and Billers, who were then stationed at that factory and both perfectly acquainted with the whole transaction

104 In our letter of the 26th November 1764 per *Devonshire* a very accurate statement of the restitution money was sent you all that requires a further explanation is the reserved commission Lord Clive, Mr Watts and Major Kalpatrick members of the Select Committee agreed to give Roy Dulub the Prime Minister and Collector General of the Revenues five per cent upon the several sums to be received agreeable to treaty in order to obtain and secure the speedy payment of the same but Roy Dulub being soon after dismissed from his employment the commission ceased from that time and we are of opinion he is not entitled to one rupee more than he received when in office the remaining part of the commission is still to be disposed of

105 It is difficult to trace the true source of mutiny with which the army was infected in the year 1764 and which was probably more universal and carried to a greater length than any instance can be shewn from either ancient or modern history An entire body of troops blacks and whites wholly differing in religion and manners uniting in the same spirit and attempting a general desertion is next to a miracle That the number which actually went off to Shuja Dowla and the accounts given by them of the disaffection of their comrades drew on the invasion from him is past a doubt and your affairs were thereby brought to the brink of ruin The extraordinary severity of the preceding campaign (1763) had occasioned a relaxation of discipline and to support the spirits of the men they had been buoyed up with promises of far larger sums than came to their share which the peculiar severity of the service did at that time in some measure render necessary to this cause may chiefly be attributed a misfortune which was so near being fatal but the conduct of the officers on this occasion cannot in any shape be called in question Major Jennings who commanded at the first appearance of the mutiny exerted himself to suppress it at the risk of his life and he with most of the officers in the attempt to bring the troops to reason had the mortification to sustain from them the most unheard of indignities and ill treatment however we may venture to pronounce that the appointment of field officers and the division of your forces into brigades will make general mutinies in future almost impracticable

106 As the state of our treasury now admits of it we have lately ordered one hundred and fifty thousand rupees in part of the last payment of the donation to the army which became due so long ago as December 1764 We at the same time ordered a further division of one sixteenth part of the restitution money which amounts to rupees three lak and forty eight thousand (348,000) 4/16th are now remaining which with the rest of the donation money we propose to pay off as soon as convenient

107 It is with real satisfaction we are enabled to furnish you with the General Book of the settlement completely brought up to April 1765 On

this occasion we cannot but recommend Mr Witts to your notice for his assiduity and care in compleating the two last setts

108 The error in the General Books pointed out in the 108th paragraph of your letter of the 15th February has been duely rectified

109 In consequence of your orders to be furnished with a series of the subordinate books from the time of the capture of Calcutta, we have sent our orders to the different settlements and shall be carefull that they are transmitted to you as soon as possible

110 The books of the Commissary General ending April 1765, have been already forwarded, those of the Military Paymaster we are sorry to inform

3d March                      you are not yet brought up since December 1764  
                                     M<sup>r</sup> Lambert who had lately the charge of that employ  
 has represented to us that it has not been owing to any wilfull neglect on his part but for want of the camp accounts being transmitted in due time We hope this is the case and as he is allowed two assistants that he will  
 6th January                compleat them in a short time We have lately thought  
                                     proper to unite these two employs under the title of Military  
 Paymaster General, that in one sett of books you might have a distinct view of all your military expences

111 The pergunnah accounts have been formed into a sett of books and a copy was transmitted to you by [            ]

112 With respect to the enquiry made concerning the disbursements on account of the French prisoners on the Decan expedition, such as were incurred whilst those prisoners were with our detachment, have been transmitted from hence, after that time they have no doubt been charged in the accounts from Fort St. George

*Eighthly touching the charter*

113 At the usual time appointed by the charter, Messrs James Lister and Pitt Lethelluller were presented to us by the Mayor's Court, the former was elected Mayor for the ensuing year and Mr Majendie nominated Sheriff

114 We have also appointed Messrs Woodward, Kellican and French, to be Aldermen, in the room of Messrs Yates, Holford and James Amyatt whose seats became vacant by resignation

115 Having been informed from undoubted authority that one Coja Mockil, an Armenian in this settlement, had filed a fictitious suit in the Mayor's Court against Johanna Marcat, an Armenian widow, who is actually in custody of the Sheriff, merely with a view to evade the demands of the country government with which she has large accounts, and had therefore taken refuge here without our concurrence or even knowledge, as nothing is so difficult as to investigate collusion of parties to the satisfaction of the law, the Court though sensible of this fraud, may not have the power of redress We have therefore informed the Mayor's Court that we think it

necessary to interpose our authority as President and Council in order to put a stop to practices so highly prejudicial to your affairs and have therefore withdrawn your protection from both the complainant and defendant and turned the former out of the settlement as we shall the latter when regularly released from the custody of the Sheriff. Should such unwarrantable proceedings be encouraged this settlement would soon become an asylum for all persons indebted to the country government, who can so easily free themselves from any lawfull demands which may be made upon them

### Supplement

116 In the 114th paragraph we informed you of our having appointed Mr French to a vacant seat in the Mayor's Court We have since received a letter from the Register enclosing copy of one to him from Mr French wherein he absolutely refuses to qualify himself alledging as the reason that he had been appointed by authority a member of the Council and though

4 March he is deprived of the liberty of acting he still looks upon himself as such untill your pleasure can be known This is so frivolous a pretence in itself as he was only summoned from a subordinate but never was sworn in nor even had left the subordinate that we could not but regard it as a glaring instance of the spirit which at present but too much prevails and which tends to the subversion of all subordination and government We therefore have determined to prevent our authority being trampled upon that nothing less than suspension from your service shall be the consequence of his refusal.

117 For an account of the passengers by this ship we refer to a list of them which comes a number in the packet.

118 A small quantity of diamonds has been registered by the *Ponsborne* amounting to rupees 40,000

119 The amount of the invoice per *Ponsborne* is ten laak fifty two thousand six hundred rupees (10,52,600).

120 The ballance this day remaining in your treasury is 13,69,012 73 and in your cash chest current rupees two hundred twenty eight thousand eight hundred and sixty three eleven annas (2,28,863 11).

We are  
Honble Sir

Your faithfull and obedient servants  
Clive / John Carnac / Harry Verelst /  
Francis Sykes / Randolph Marriott /  
Hugh Watts / Claud Russell / William  
Aldersey / Thos Kelsall / Chris Flower

For William  
the 24th March 1768  
[Original per *Ponsborne*  
Duplicate per *Admiral Blakeney*]

## LETTER DATED 24 MARCH 1766

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon'ble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Honorable Sirs,

Our general advices of this date go in duplicate by the *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson*

Since writing the 116th paragraph of our letter abovementioned, Mr French has addressed a letter to us on the occasion of his being nominated an Alderman of the Mayor's Court, a copy whereof is transmitted in the packet

The amount of this ship's invoice is four laak and sixty six thousand rupees

We have granted a further sett of certificates by these ships to Captain Money for two thousand pounds being on account of the estate of Captain Blewit, late commander of the *Admiral Watson* deceased

Mr Marriott has dissented to a part of the 81st paragraph of the General Letter as appears on the minutes of this day's Consultation

We are,

Honorable Sirs,

Your faithfull and obedient servants,  
(Signed) Clive / John Carnac / Harry  
Verelst / Francis Sykes / Randolph  
Marriott / Hugh Watts / Claud  
Russell / William Aldersey / Thos  
Kelsall / Chas Floyer

Fort William,  
the 24th March 1766

*List of bills granted by the Ponsborne for value received of Messrs Vansittart and Plowman*

	[Rs]	[£]
1 Sett to Mr Joseph Salvadore in full return for one chest of coral beads F No 3 per <i>Kent</i> 1765 BS	2,808- 0-3	327-12- 0
1 Sett to do in full return for one chest GM No 12 per <i>Vansittart</i> 1764	6,082-15-3	709-13- 6
1 Sett to do in full return for one chest of coral GM No 11 per <i>Caernarvon</i> 1764	4,714- 2-3	549-19- 8
1 Sett to do in full return for one chest of coral <sup>MB46</sup> § No 2 per <i>Grenville</i>	1,229- 4-9	143- 8- 4

	[Rs.]	[£]
1 Sett to do in full return for a chest of coral <sup>B</sup> <sub>8</sub> No 13 per <i>Grampus</i>	4,326- 4-6	504 14 8
1 Sett to Messrs Raphael Franco and Jacob Moseh in full return for one chest B No 5 per <i>Caernarvon</i> 1764	7,009 4 9	817 15- 0
1 Sett to Messrs Anthony and John Lewis André in full return for 1 chest of coral AA No 1 per <i>Ponsborne</i>	15,271 11 3	1 781 14 0
1 Sett to Messrs Jacob Moseh and Raphael Franco in full for one chest F No 15 per <i>Grenville</i>	10 291 12 9	1,200 14 2
1 Sett to do in full for one chest F No 16 per <i>Grenville</i>	10,607 10 3	1,237 0 0
1 Sett to do in full return for one chest FF No 2 per <i>Ponsborne</i>	3 405-14-0	397 7 0
1 Sett to Nathan Moxhigane in full for one chest H No 4 per <i>Grenville</i>	2,004 12 9	233-17 11
1 Sett to do in full return for one chest A No 3 per <i>Grenville</i>	1,843- 5-0	215 1 1
1 Sett Hugh Watt acct Derby Crady to William Downes	1 714 4-6	200- 0- 0

## LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1766

*Loss of the Falmouth—enquiry into illicit trade—mutiny among military officers in Bengal on the question of reduction of double batty—Clive's success in quelling the mutiny—praise for services of field officers—civilian support to the mutiny—court martial for the mutineers—design against Clive's life—death of Nazak Najmud Daulah and succession of his brother Saifud Daulah*

TO the Hon<sup>ble</sup> the Court of Directors for affairs of the Hon<sup>ble</sup> United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

1 The *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson* received their dispatches from the Master Attendant at Ingellee the 10th of April and carried our last general advices dated the 24th of March in duplicate a triplicate thereof is now transmitted by the *Lord Camden* which arrived here the 2nd of last month and is returned to Fort St George with 200 tons of salt petre and 30 tons of red wood there to take in her cargo and receive her final dispatches for Europe By this ship we shall advise you in a summary way of the most material occurrences since our last and defer a full and particular detail of your affairs

under the established heads untill the dispatch of our first or second ship directly from hence

2 We have the pleasure to acquaint you that all the Coast and China ships of this season arrived safely and in due time at Madras *viz* the *Neptune* and *Glatton* the 6th of June, the *Hampshire* the 7th, the *Lioness* the 13th *Ashburnham* 15th and *Duke of Kingstone* 19th of June

3 The *Grenville* which sailed from hence in company with the *Kent* in February last was spoke with off Madagascar by the *Neptune* and *Glatton* the 19th of April and we hope has met with a favourable passage

4 Of the ships for Coast and Bay the *Britanma* and *Lord Camden* arrived at Madras the 7th of July, they were dispatched from thence the 19th and got up to Ingellee the 31st The *Cruttenden* also came into the River the 5th of August

5 By these ships we have been favoured with your several commands under the following dates

General Letter	Dated 13th December	}	1765
General Letter	24th December		
Separate General Letter	24th December		
General Letter	15th January	}	1766
General Letter	19th February		
Also a General Letter from the Secret Committee	21st January		

6 You may depend on our attending to the due execution of the orders laid down in your said letters, many of which we have the pleasure to acquaint you had been anticipated by the Committee of Inspection<sup>1</sup> appointed, as you already have been informed by the Select Committee, to examine into the state of the different offices and employs both in the civil and military departments, whose proceedings will be fully communicated by our annual ship

7 We had been long uneasy for the safety of the *Falmouth* and *Hector*, when on the 29th of June last to our very great concern we received advice from Mr Thorseby with 26 others who were got on shore in the long boat, that the *Falmouth* after meeting with a severe gale of wind in the Bay was stranded to the eastward of Sagor Point the 13th of that month We immediately sent our Master Attendant down the River with a number of sloops and boats to endeavour to save the people and cargoe The death of Mr Thorseby a few days after his arrival in Calcutta anticipated our intentions of calling him to an account for not taking measures to return with the first boats he met with to the relief of the ship, which was the design of his being sent ashore in the long boat, and was the more incumbent on him as the country opposite to where the ship was stranded appeared uninhabited, barren of the necessaries of life and so intersected by various branches of the River, that there was a worse prospect if possible in the situation of those who might save themselves upon rafts without the assistance of boats than by their remaining on board, where they were sure of water and provisions so long as the ship held together Upon the whole we are sorry to remark that the loss of so many men may be ascribed solely to the chief mate's not returning with the long boat

8 The event has proved this in a very melancholy degree, for nothing



can surpass the hardship and fatigue those who did get ashore were exposed to scattered upon the beach and desolate islands and languishing under the inclemency of the weather and want of sustenance for some weeks until the boats sent from hence *Luckipore* and *Dacca*, brought them relief when the ship was stranded there were 320 on board of whom 134 as per list enclosed in the packet have been arrived in town for some time, and excepting forty more whom we had accounts of a few days past by five who left the others on one of the islands we fear the greatest part if not all of them must perish before relief can reach them From this last account we entertain but little hopes of hearing that any more are saved from the unfortunate wreck of the *Falmouth*.

9 In consequence of the orders contained in your commands of the 13th of December for the discovery of illicit trade we immediately on Captain Hepburn's arrival at town proceeded to an enquiry into his conduct, the second mate and petty officers being thereupon examined and the deposition of the passengers taken upon oath it appeared that unlicensed goods to the amount of about 320 or 330 tons had been taken on board in the channel and at the island of St. Iago where a ship was purposely waiting with them—that to make room for these goods they started a good deal of their water and came out of St. Iago with forty butts less than they carried in Previous to this the bulk head of the lazaretta was carried aft and that of the gun room brought forward which extremely cramped the troops for room and to which may in a great measure be ascribed the sickness that prevailed particularly as the ship was so overloaded that the gun ports were obliged to be caulked down excepting when in harbour It appears also that the overloading the ship (at best but very ill equipped with seamen or stores) has been the source of all their misfortunes as she could hardly make her way through the water after leaving St. Iago consequently the less under command and more at the mercy of the seas and weather

10 In the course of our examination it further appeared that the military officers and soldiers on board were very ill treated the latter having been put to very hard work during the passage particularly at St. Iago where they were employed in the heat of the day and at the risk of their lives in carrying heavy stones to ballast the vessel from which the illicit goods were received There were only 18 or 19 foremast men on the ship's books when they left England and remonstrances being made in consequence to Mr Durand the principal owner it is affirmed that so far from paying any regard to them he gave for answer that he did not care if there were no foremast men on board as there were soldiers enough to work the ship.

11 Captain Hepburne has delivered in his defence in writing and we are sorry to observe the only thing that can be alledged in his favor is that he appears to be disordered in his senses

12 On this occasion we must remark the shamefull abuses that appear to be practised by the owners in fitting out these transport ships in general which merit your attention there is too much reason to suppose that they themselves not the commanders are principally concerned in this illicit trade Such a procedure we think must subject them to be accountable for the deviation from the voyage and all the bad consequences that have ensued among which the lives of hundreds ought to be thrown into the scale

13 The packets by the *Falmouth* were not saved, but a duplicate of your advices by that ship dated the 26th of April 1765 per *Harcourt* have been forwarded to us from Bombay

14 The *Hector* arrived at Madras the 31st of July in a very sickly condition, and after loosing the greatest part of her men in the course of so tedious a passage, we apprehend the gentlemen at Madras will make the necessary enquiries into Captain Massey's conduct who by the accounts we have had has been equally culpable with Captain Hepburn in overloading his ship with illicit trade at St. Iago

15 The *Cruttenden* whose arrival we mentioned in the 4th paragraph, came on to Bengal without calling at Madras having as Captain Bowland represented, been driven to the leeward of that port before he could make the land a court of enquiry consisting of our Master Attendant, two Europe captains and two masters of country vessels having assembled pursuant to our orders, they have acquitted Captain Bowland of deviating intentionally from the destination of his voyage

16 Having in a letter from the Secret Committee of the 21st of January received intimation that unlicensed goods were suspected to have been put on board the *Cruttenden* in the Channel, we immediately upon the news of the arrival of that ship in the River, sent two Company's servants on board to seal down the hatchways with orders to suffer nothing to be sent out of the ship but by permission and proceeded to the examination of Captain Bowland who denied the charge, informing us at the same time a tender of goods had been made to him which he absolutely rejected

17 The principal officers of the ship and several of the passengers being examined and the depositions of the latter taken upon oath, their answers concurred exactly with what Captain Bowland had asserted, who was therefore acquitted of the charge, it appeared that the report of a design to take in unlicensed goods had got abroad while the *Cruttenden* was laying in the Downs, so that if Capt Bowland had any such intention before, it is not probable he would then have put it into execution

18 On a calculate of the investment providing this season, we expect it will not amount to less than fifty lacks of rupees The gentlemen at Madras inform us that they shall have cargoes for three ships, on receipt therefore of your advices that four ships only were destined this season for Coast and Bay and six for Bombay we immediately came to a resolution to solicit the gentlemen of that Presidency to assist in supplying us with as large a proportion of tonnage as could possibly be spared so as to arrive with us by the latter end of November at furthest

19 Observing afterwards by your advices of the 19th February that three of the Bombay ships were to call at Madras with troops for this settlement, we recommended to the President and Council there to send two of them on to us by way of securing a tonnage for our investment and if in consequence of the application we before made to Bombay, two other ships should be sent round from their side, we concluded that it could not be of any prejudice to your affairs as in such case they might be returned thither with the consignments of the two Bombay ships that should be sent on to us from the Coast and the salt petre intended this season for that Presidency

20 But since, we have received advices from the gentlemen at Bombay acquainting us of the *Duke of Albany's* arrival there the 3rd of last month and that having been informed from Madras of the tonnage required for our investments on the side they have determined to supply us with three ships two of which the *Duke of Albany* and *Nottingham* will be sent round from Bombay and that they have desired the gentlemen at Madras therefore to detain only one of those ordered to call there with troops for this place.

21 It is probable the large supplies of bullion sent out from Europe the last season for the China investment with the consignment of twenty four licks from this Presidency and the assistance the supra cargoes may have received further from Madras and Bombay will not only have amply provided for their ships of this season but leave a very considerable ballance in their hands to command an investment for the next. Unless however we receive advices from them to limit our next consignments it is our intention to make them equal to that of last year for which purpose we are buying up all the bullion that is imported and you may rely on the continuance of our endeavours to support this valuable part of your trade.

22 At a time when we thought the refractory spirit peculiar to this settlement had begun to subside and our attention was employed in the grand plan of reformation and method to our great surprize a mutinous spirit discovered itself amongst the military officers which we cannot reflect on but with horror more especially when we consider that not only the civil authority but perhaps the very being of the Company was at stake. It blazed forth in a general combination among all ranks under the degree of a field officer with a determined resolution to distress the Government by throwing up their commissions on the 1st day of May last unless the double *batta* was restored and to give a colour of moderation to this dishonorable behaviour they agreed to act as volunteers for fifteen days that an answer might be received from the Board whether their mutinous demands would be complied with. The three brigades though at great distances from each other conducted their plan with such secrecy being bound to each other by oath that it was not till the 29th of April that Lord Clive who was then at Moorshedabad settling at the grand *pooneah* the collection of the revenues of Bengal for the year to come received the first intimation of their design when he was informed that no less than 130 officers had already subscribed to the association and engaged to raise a fund not only for the maintenance and support of all those who should suffer from our resentment but likewise to purchase commissions in the King's service in England. An army making it own terms was such an alarming circumstance that we immediately determined to crush such a mutinous spirit in its birth at all hazards and on the sixth of May when the association appeared to be general and we received accounts that the officer of the 1st Brigade stationed at Mongheer had lodged their commissions with the adjutant with an intention to send them to the commanding officer we directed Lt Col Sir Robert Fletcher to accept all that were tendered and send the officers down to Calcutta within 24 hours as no dependence could be had on men who could so far forget their own honor and the duty they owed to the service.

23 On so critical an occasion when our authority was so grossly insulted and the contest in fact was whether the government of these provinces shd still

pass from the hands of the civil to the military, every thing was to be risked. Spirited measures seemed to be the only resource, nor did we hesitate adopting them dangerous as they were, being confident that a happy unanimity in our Councils would, if any thing could, ensure success. The presence of his Lordship, the General and a few good officers who were hastening up to Mongheer with all expedition, and who had not lost sight of their duty to the Company, or forget what they owed to their own honor, gave us reason to hope that no very bad consequences would be apprehended from the men being so suddenly and basely deserted by their officers.

24 Soon after accounts arrived that the 2nd and 3rd Brigades had followed the example of the 1st with this distinction that the 2nd Brigade agreed to resign the 1st of June and to abandon the troops on the 15th, but this did not shake the firmness with which we had determined to persevere. We repeated our applications to Madras and Bombay for all the officers and volunteers they could possibly spare, and gave notice to the mutineers upon their arrival in Calcutta to prepare for proceeding to Europe by the first opportunity. If they were before secure of carrying their point from the association being so general, and so unanimous, no less than 173 having sent in their commissions, nothing now could equal their chagrin and despair at finding themselves disappointed, yet still they flattered themselves with hopes, that the circular letters which they had sent to the Coast and Bombay representing the service here in an odious light would frustrate our applications and we should at last be obliged to comply with their demands.

25 Thus stood matters for some time untill we heard from Lord Clive and General Carnac on their arrival at Monghier the 15th of May, that nothing was to be apprehended from either the military or seapoys at that place, though deprived of so many of their officers, and in a few days after we received another letter from his Lordship and the General dated at Patna with the agreeable news that the men of the 3rd Brigade remained firm to their duty although they had been for some time deserted by almost all the officers. Here we cannot avoid bestowing that praise upon the field officers which they most justly deserve, and whose conduct in keeping the men in order and preventing their following the infamous example set them by their officers, does these gentlemen as much honor as their task was arduous. The situation of the 2nd Brigade in the face of a large army of Morattoes, and in the centre of Soujah Dowlah's dominions was more particularly critical and its officers sensible of this were the more violent, although they enjoyed on account of their great distance from the provinces the very indulgence, the want of which was ascribed as a reason for the mutiny in the officers of the other brigades. Under these disagreeable circumstances we could not but be under the greatest anxiety for the fate of this brigade, but we were soon relieved from our apprehensions by the spirit and activity of Col Smith who extricated himself with great address, untill the news of our steadiness, and the fate of the officers of the other two brigades had time to operate, when they all became as humble as they before were insolent, and upon their making proper submission, we pardoned all those we thought deserving of our clemency. The news of this brigade's having retracted, and a reinforcement of officers from Madras with intelligence that many more were coming soon had the wished for effect, on the officers of the other two brigades.

Reflection succeeded to folly and madness and they began to see the absurdity of their conduct in its true light. Individuals began to desert their cause, jealousy and reproach took place in their councils and the committee they had formed for conducting their measures now found their weight and influence daily diminishing at length they formally absolved themselves from the solemn engagements and penalty bonds<sup>2</sup> they had entered into at the beginning of the association the consequence of which has been that the offenders almost to a man have submissively acknowledged their error and petitioned to be readmitted into the service. We have already forgiven some of the most innocent and how far we shall extend our lenity towards others will depend upon their characters and merits. As things have turned out we cannot but esteem this as a happy circumstance which has afforded us an opportunity of weeding the army not only of the promoters of the association but also of the illiterate mean and undeserving

26 This combination it appears first began in January last in the height of the disaffection amongst the civilians, and it is probable would have blazed out at the same time had not the distance that separated the brigades required more time to bring matters to a maturity and circumspection to guard against the military law. There is but too much reason to suspect that this dangerous attempt of the officers to overset our civil liberties has been countenanced and supported by some of the civilians themselves from the beginning and there is great cause for belief that a subscription has been set on foot among some of them at Calcutta in order to excite them to perseverance in this mutinous conduct. But it is beyond a doubt that every officer in the three brigades were made to believe such a subscription and that it amounted to the sum of 140,000 rupees. The intercepted letters which appear on the face of our Consultations the open satisfaction expressed but by too many at our then dilemma and the almost general refusal of the free merchants to accept of commissions in that time of great distress are but too many melancholy proofs of the depravity of this settlement. We may be sorry but cannot be surprized at so glaring an instance of the spirit of opposition. When men are lost to all sense of duty to the publick they know not where to stop. If success had attended this daring attempt perpetual *batta* was to have been the next demand annulling the covenants another the dissolution of the Select Committee a third and setting aside the Company's appointment of officers from England a fourth. But these shocking circumstances are now all happily obviated and the civil authority better established we hope than ever. The civilians too seem now to be sensible of their error and we hope will in future be more attentive to their duty and less actuated by a spirit of refractoriness and opposition.

27 How far combinations of this nature come under the articles of war seem to be doubtfull as the officers had not contracted for any certain time which appears to be a necessary form by the Act for punishing mutiny and desertion and they had ceased to receive pay at the time of resigning their commission. While such doubts exist a court martial might possibly call the legality of a trial in question which it is better to avoid. There are some of the offenders however so circumstanced that we think they cannot well escape the rigour of martial law. When things have been carried such length examples seem necessary not only for the salvation of the whole but for the

sake of discipline and subordination. A general court martial of field officers has been assembled for the trial of Captain Neville Parker, Lt Vertue, Lt Monsell and Ensign North.

28 The proceedings of the court upon Lt Vertue having been closed and approved, we are to acquaint you that he has been brought in guilty of mutiny and desertion, but there being no certain proof of his having received his pay although it has drawn for in the usual manner, the court have thought proper only to sentence him to be cashiered with infamy by having his sword and esponton broke over his head and his sash cut in pieces in front of all the troops.

29 To obviate these difficulties in future, we have come to a resolution that as soon as the courts martial are over, every officer shall execute a regular contract of service for three years, obliging himself to give twelve months previous notice before he can resign without the permission of the President and Council.

30 The combination of the officers has been productive of many strange discoveries, and among the rest an information has been laid before the Board, against Lt Col Sir Robert Fletcher as a principal promoter and instigator of the late dishonorable association—so heavy a charge against one of our principal officers gives us pain, however, we have been necessitated to order him under an arrest. A general court martial is summoned for his trial and we shall rejoice to find him acquitted of a crime in which he has so much at stake.

31 Amongst these informations, there is another of a nature still more heinous, nothing less than a design against our President Lord Clive's life Capt Stamford<sup>4</sup> who is the person accused is now under arrest on that account, and will shortly be brought to his trial. This gentleman was one of the first who deserted their cause, and we would therefore willingly hope the accusation springs only from pique and resentment. One thing is certain, it cannot flow from a just abhorrence of the crime since it was kept a secret untill matters had subsided, and there was no longer danger of its being perpetrated.

32 Our proceedings during the course of the combination are kept apart from the Consultations and shall be transmitted by the first ship direct from hence. Meanwhile we sent for your information a list of the officers now doing duty with the brigades, distinguishing those that remained firm to their duty and those that we have thought proper to restore.

33 We must here in justice to the officers from Madras acknowledge the readiness with which they came to our assistance, and there is no doubt but their sudden arrival contributed towards bringing our officers to repentance and a sense of their duty.

34 The brigades being now tolerably well officered, we have ordered the last embarkation of Madras officers back to the Coast, where their services are more immediately wanted, and here we think it our duty to inform you that both the Presidencies of Fort St George and Bombay have afforded us their assistance with the greatest zeal and utmost dispatch.

35 We are informed by the gentlemen saved from the *Falmouth* that while they were at Mauritius, a Spanish man of war of 64 guns came in there from the Brazils, and is bound for Manilla. This is the first instance we know of their breach of the treaty and seems therefore an important piece of intelligence.

36 We have just received advices from Madras that the *Pigot* Captain Richardson arrived there the 20th of last month.

37 It is with the greatest concern we have to acquaint you with the death of the Nabob Najymal Dowlah who departed this life on the 8th of May last after short illness. His next brother Syfal Dowlah was immediately proclaimed his successor and has since received the royal *sumnuds*.

We are  
Honble Sirs

Fort William  
the 6th September 1766.  
[Original per *Lord Camden* via  
Madras.  
Duplicate per *Cruttenden*]

Your faithful and obedient servants  
Clive / Wm. B. Sumner / John Carnac /  
H. Verelst / Randh. Marnott / Hugh  
Watts / Claud Russell / W. Aldersey /  
Thos. Kelsall / Chas. Floyer

#### *Postscript*

We have granted the undermentioned certificates to the officers of the *Lord Camden* on their indulgencies vizt

#### Setts

1	To Mr John Riddal	chief	mate	for	current	rupees	15,000
1	To Mr Henry Pascall	second	do	for	do	3,400	
1	To Mr John Thompson	third	do	for	do	4,320	
3 setts amounting to current rupees							22,720

Three setts of certificates dated the 1st of this instant amounting to current rupees twenty two thou and seven hundred and twenty which has been received into your treasury

We are  
Honble Sirs

Fort William  
the 6th September 1766

Your faithfull and obedient servants.

## LETTER DATED 6 SEPTEMBER 1766

*Flourishing state of affairs in Bengal—Clive pleads for moderate profits to Company's servants in private trade—services of field officers during the mutiny eulogized—army officers to be obliged to enter into contracts for service—personal resentment against Clive as chief cause of civilian support to mutiny*

TO the Hon'ble the Count of Directors etc etc

Gentlemen,

1 In May last I had the honor to receive your letter of the 26th April 1765 per *Harcourt*, and it gives me particular satisfaction to remark that I have not only fulfilled but in great measure anticipated your expectations in the several important points therein recommended to my attention. A peace firm and lasting is established the trade in salt and betelnut is now regulated upon a plan which will still perhaps admit of improvements for the advantage of the Company, your military expences though encreased by means of the additional number of battalions of sepoys, are much less in proportion than heretofore, the double *batta* is struck off, discipline is restored to your army, and subordination, good order and harmony have once more taken place among the civil servants at this settlement

2 As the new covenants and a strict obedience to your orders, more particularly in confining the trade of individuals to imports and exports only, have abridged the servants of many of their accustomed emoluments, and as the Company are in fact the sole proprietors of the immense revenues of the 3 provinces, not to mention the 12 or 13 laaks of rupees per annum, now arising from the duty upon salt and betelnut, permit me to wish that the gentlemen in your service, as an encouragement to industry and good behaviour may be suffered to enjoy the moderate proportion which is now settled of those advantages that have accrued to their employers. Besides these, I have other reasons of great importance to the service to wish this indulgence may be continued. I therefore flatter myself that the present distribution will receive your approbation in your answer to our dispatches per *Admiral Stevens*. My minute in Committee dated the 2nd instant to which I beg leave to refer, will fully convey to you my ideas upon this subject as also the several alterations that I propose shall take place for the improvement of the present plan. But if after being made acquainted with the flourishing state of your affairs in Bengal you should persevere in those orders you sent per *Camden*, be assured they will most punctually be complied with.

3 By the General Letter you will find that the reduction of *batta* is at last perfectly effected. The mutinous combination of the officers upon that occasion is a circumstance unparalleled in any age or country, but the event has been rather fortunate to the Company, since we have availed ourselves of the opportunity to retain good officers and gentlemen, and have refused



restoration to all those who by their conduct or meanness were a disgrace to your service.

4 That this mutiny was greatly encouraged by the civilians stands upon the record of our Consultations but we must wait the issue of the general courts martial which are now holding before we can ascertain the particulars of its rise and progress or determine where the military gentlemen had they proved victorious, intended to have fixed the bounds of their conquest.

5 By these courts martial we have convinced the officers, that the rigor of martial law shall be put in force equally against them as against inferior offenders. This is a doctrine which must be established and take place by some examples since not only the preservation of the settlement but the very basis of military discipline depends on it.

6 Had not the appointment of field officers been a plan wholly my own I could with justice enlarge upon the signal utility of it, upon this extraordinary occasion indeed it is beyond a doubt that without their assistance all the efforts of the President and Council added to my presence at Monghyr and Patna would have failed of success. A mutiny of the soldiers would infallibly have happened and the consequences of such an event are too dreadful to think of.

7 The necessity of obliging every officer to contract for a time, and to give at least a year's notice of his intention to resign is sufficiently evident. The very first clause in the Mutiny Act, supposes a contract and without such a tie any officer provided he has not received the month's pay may throw up his commission with impunity. You will undoubtedly therefore approve of the intention I have of requiring a contract from every officer who resigned and has been restored. This I propose shall be carried into execution when the general courts martial are finished and I hope you will see no objection to the renewal of the custom in England with all military gentlemen before they embark for India.

8 Should it have been imagined that the accounts I gave you in my former letters of the licentiousness of this settlement were exaggerated the countenance and support afforded by the civil to the military servants upon this occasion will surely justify all I said. There is but too much reason to believe that personal resentment against me for the part I have constantly acted on behalf of the Company which frequently proved repugnant to the interest of individuals was one of the chief motives to their conduct and you will judge to what degree they must have been infatuated to encourage and wish success to a measure which had it prevailed must have overthrown their own civil liberties in this country and rendered them the abject slaves of a despotic military government.

9 Your affairs in Bengal are now I think in a fair way of being completely regulated nor can I foresee anything that can possibly happen to distress or disturb them except suffering your affairs to return to the confusion in which I found them and allowing your servants to trample on your authority with regard to the Mahrattas or other country powers they may harass the

provinces, and lessen your trade and revenues, but they never can endanger your possessions upon the footing they now stand

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect,

Your most obedient and

most humble servant,

(Sigd) Clive

Calcutta,  
6th September 1766

32

LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1766

*Treaty with Shujah Daulah—grant of diwani by Shah Alam—filling of vacant seats at the Board by men of merit and reputation—mutiny in the army—need for execution of covenants by army officers—increase in revenue—congress at Chapra—export of bullion for China investment—restitution money and donations to army and navy by Mir Jafar—death of Najmud-Daulah and succession of Saifud-Daulah—inadequacy of allowances to junior officers*

TO the Honble the Court of Directors for affairs of the United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies

Hon'ble Sirs,

1 At the time our last advices dated the 24th March were dispatched, the attention of this Committee was wholly directed to the means of securing the benefits of your present immense possessions. The Company's influence in the empire we considered as sufficiently extended, provided the power of maintaining that influence could be confirmed. To conciliate the minds of the natives to our Government and diffuse the blessings of a mild administration whenever our authority extended as collectors of the revenues for the King, appeared to us the most effectual method of accomplishing that desirable end.

2 We laid the foundation of this plan in the treaty concluded with Shujah Dowlah, the conditions of which so far exceeded his expectation in point of advantage to himself, that we are well assured the Company in granting these terms have sacrificed a meer shadow of power only, to the substantial benefit of security. The cheerfulness with which he met the Right Honorable President at a late congress held in the Bahar province, the ready compliance he shewed in paying the remainder of the indemnification to the Company stipulated by treaty even before the time limited for payment was expired, and the engagements which he has renewed for our mutual defence and security, afford the strongest testimony of the sincerity of his gratitude and friendship.

3 It was in the prosecution of our plan of giving permanency to your influence, that we obtained from the King a grant of the *dewanny* and with the same view we entered into an agreement with the Nabob, the consequences

of which are that the revenues of the three provinces being now entirely under our direction we no longer depend for the support of our military establishment on the *Subah's* bounty.

4 But to impart real stability to the system we had adopted it became necessary we should look strictly into the internal conduct of this government and exert our utmost endeavours to restore to a sense of duty and integrity a settlement deeply immersed in the most profligate dissipation and avowed corruption. For this purpose we entered upon the odious task of an enquiry into the conduct of divers members of the Council with the result of which and of the opposition we encountered you are already acquainted.

5. The seats vacated at the Board by this and other concurring circumstances proved unexpectedly fortunate to our design as it opened to us a fair opportunity of making some advances towards that selection of the members of the Council which we before recommended to your attention by introducing to the Board four gentlemen of unquestionable merit and reputation who having been tutored in notions of rigid subordination and economy were the most likely to co-operate in our views with all the weight of their example and authority. We would not remind you of what the behaviour upon that occasion was of the servants of this establishment, it being itself the strongest evidence of the expediency of the measure we pursued and of the just sentiments we entertained of their principles had not the violence of their conduct extended beyond what we then foresaw or could even imagine.

6 Whether any endeavours were exerted by the civil servants to propagate their discontent to the military officers is what we cannot directly affirm but from several of their intercepted letters it appears they were much elated at seeing the army tainted with the malignity of their own infection. We had agreeably to the advices already transmitted home reduced the double *batta* allowed to the military officers as early as the month of January yet not a murmur or complaint transpired farther than was expressed in a very moderate representation to the Board from the captains and subalterns of each of the three brigades. All was calm and serene in camp as if they remained satisfied with the orders issued by the Select Committee until a proper state of their circumstances could be laid before the Court of Directors.

7 In this deceitful tranquility the space of four months elapsed when during the recess of the Committee and Lord Clive's residence at Moorshedabad the alarming advices arrived that almost all the officers of the army had combined under articles of the most solemn agreement to resign their commission by a certain day unless their *batta* was restored and the orders of the Company were abrogated. To secure their measures without incurring the penalties of desertion they fixed on a period when they had no pay in advance and it was every moment expected our frontier would be invaded by a large body of Mahratta horse flattering themselves that the necessities for their services at so critical a juncture must infallibly reduce the Board to submission.

8 It was immediately recommended by Lord Clive to the Board when he transmitted the advices rather to put all to the risk than suffer the authority of the Council to be insulted. The saving which arose to the Company from the reduction of *batta* was now of trifling consideration when compared

with the danger of yielding to the menaces of so unprecedented and mutinous an association. To preserve the authority of the President and Council and crush an attempt that indicated the total subversion of Government, became now the object in which sentiments the whole Board with one voice concurred with his Lordship. He proceeded accompanied by General Canac to Mongeer where the 1st battalion lay in cantonments and happily arrived at the instant when the whole body of Europeans was ripe for revolt. Their officers, the Lieut Colonel and two or three subalterns excepted had to a man withdrawn themselves, and the soldiers fired with the contagious spirit of mutiny were on the point of following the example of their superiors, when his Lordship's presence and authority awakened them to a sense of their duty and probably saved these provinces from all the horrors of rapine, desolation, and military anarchy. The same violence of conduct prevailed amongst the officers of the 2nd and 3rd Brigades stationed at Allahabad and Patna, in so much that Colonel Smith who was posted on the frontiers of Corah, remote from all assistance and in the very face of a formidable enemy, was totally deserted by his officers in those lines he had drawn to oppose the irruption of the Mahrattas.

9 For the further particulars of this extraordinary and very interesting event, we beg leave to refer you to the letter and Consultations of the Public Department, since the whole correspondence passed through that channel during the recess of the Select Committee. Here we touched upon it, with the view only to impress you with more lively ideas of the state of this settlement and to evince more strongly the necessity of what we have before repeatedly recommended, a constant attention to the good sense, honour and steadiness of those gentlemen whom you in future admit into Council.

10 We have a particular satisfaction in observing to you the spirited zeal with which the Board assisted in every measure proposed by the President to break this dangerous combination. A just sense of the indignity offered to their own authority as well as of danger to the community seemed to unite them heart and hand in punishing to the extreme extent of their power, an act of disobedience that includes in its effects the being and fate of your invaluable possessions in Bengal. But still it remains to be determined how far the delinquents are subject to the utmost rigour of martial law, and whether such proofs can clearly be exhibited against them as, admitting the authority of the court will render the prisoner liable to the punishment of mutiny and desertion.

11 The present situation of your affairs requiring so numerous a military establishment, at such a distance from the fountain of justice as not to admit of elucidation in difficult cases before it is too late for decision, it becomes an object of most serious attention to bind down your officers and soldiers by the strongest ties of duty, of allegiance and of martial discipline. Of late years it hath been customary to grant commissions without exacting those covenants whereby the party agrees to serve for a certain period of time. Yet upon the supposition that such contract actually exists, the King and Parliament have graciously been pleased to extend the benefits of the Mutiny Bill<sup>1</sup> to the Hon'ble the East India Company. To this neglect it is owing that any officer or number of officers, has it in his option, without consulting the Governor and Council to throw up your service in times of the most imminent

danger without incurring the penalties of any law civil or military for by refusing your pay he is no longer subject to your authority

12. To guard therefore in future against an event that may probably terminate in a manner less fortunate to the Company we beg leave earnestly to recommend that no commissions may be hereafter bestowed or officers sent out but under restriction of the above covenants a power of dispensing with the same by granting permission to resign to be vested solely in the Governor and Council. So many instances have occurred both here and upon the Coast, of an independent and encroaching spirit in the military that we imagine further arguments will be unnecessary to convince you of the necessity there is to support the civil authority with all the power that law admits and necessity urges.

13. Before this mutiny broke out, Lord Clive had for some time assisted at the *puncali* held at Moorshedabad for stating the revenues of Bengal for the present year 1766. We have now the pleasure to inform you that the net estimate of collections for the year arising from Bengal only amount to one crore sixty one lacks seven hundred and eight rupees (1,61,00,708) which is an increase of eleven lacks thirty one thousand nine hundred and seventy eight rupees (11,31,978) on the collections of the preceding year flowing chiefly from a reduction of charges without levying any additional tax on the zemindars

14. The statement of the revenues of Bahar is likewise just come to our hands and we perceive with great satisfaction that they amount this year to sixty one lacks eighty six thousand two hundred and seventy six rupees (61,86,216), being an increase of a net revenue of five lacks sixty two thousand two hundred and sixty one rupees (5,62,261). This increase we in great measure ascribe to the diligence and abilities of Mahomed Reza Cawn who is now employed on the spot in regulating the collections of that province, whence we hope the revenues will be reduced to more order and raised to a greater amount than have for some years been known on account of the scandalous embezzlement of the public money and misconduct of the collectors.

15. It is by means of economy and frugality only that we wish to see your revenues increased since they are already sufficiently great to answer every purpose of the Company for without the greatest care be taken to prevent zemindars from carrying on long balances and defrauding the Government under various pretences your collections would soon dwindle to a sum insufficient to defray their own charges the authority of the administration would be despised and the several rajahs and zemindars would assume to themselves an independent power after they had fleeced the people and fattened upon the spoils of the public

16. During Lord Clive's residence in the Bahar province a congress was held at Chupra<sup>h</sup> at which his Lordship General Carnac Shuja Dowlah and the King's minister assisted. There was laid the foundation of a treaty between the Company and the Vizier and the Jaut and Rohilla chiefs for their mutual defence and security against all attempts of the Mahrattas to invade their several dominions but his Lordship and General Carnac from consideration of the little advantage the Company could deduce from such distant allies in case of an invasion chose to leave this matter unfinished and "to

entrust Sujah Dowlah with the management of such treaties as he might think convenient, for his own and the Company's welfare, but he is not to conclude any thing nor enter into any absolute engagements without having previously acquainted the President with every proposal and obtained his approbation"

17 At Chuprah likewise attended deputies from the Mahratta chiefs, from whom and from the letters they brought, it evidently appears, the Mahratta forces were assembled at the King's requisition and upon the positive assurances he gave that an English army would join them to escort him to his capital His Majesty has indeed laboured hard by every artifice and persuasion, intrigue and negotiation to succeed in his favorite scheme, which we are convinced would terminate in accomplishing his own ruin, and destroying the peace of the whole empire In a word his conduct has been such that we are at a loss whether most to condemn his policy, despise his understanding or abhor his principles

18 With a view to watch the motions of the Mahrattas upon our own frontier, Lord Clive has directed Colonel Smith's brigade to canton at Doodua-ghur or Sassaram, where the Colonel will be advantageously posted to oppose any hostile intentions and to cover the Bahar province This brigade is recalled in consequence of Shujah Dowlah's having fully discharged all the engagements into which he entered by the treaty and for this reason likewise we shall immediately recall the Resident at Benares and every other European residing in the Vizier's dominions, that no disputes may arise from private commerce to disturb the amity now subsisting

19 We have frequently mentioned to you the inconvenience of exporting money and bullion from this country for the supply of your China investment yet we would not take upon ourselves to withhold this assistance until we received your instructions, accordingly the Council have issued orders to the Mint Master to purchase all the bullion that may be imported this season for the use of the China market, to which we propose remitting to the amount of 24 lacks

20 To obviate the immediate bad effects to the commerce and revenues of this country of such an annual drain of treasure, Lord Clive carried into execution during his stay at Moorshedabad, the regulations of the Select Committee relative to a gold coinage which we hope soon fully to establish, notwithstanding the prejudices of these people against every innovation Having already presented you with a general view of the above regulations we must now request your excuse for not transmitting the particulars by this conveyance as our Secretary hath not been able to get up the proceedings on account of the death and sickness of several of the assistants in his office

21 Already we have gone through the enquiry you direct into the several sums granted by the Nabob Meer Jaffier for the purpose of restitution to the merchants and donation to the army and navy All the principal agents for these disbursements have been separately examined upon oath before the Committee and their depositions taken viva voce and recorded on the face of our proceedings

22 Sorry we are to observe that from those depositions it will appear how little the Nabob himself was inclined to impoverish his treasury by free

gifts and voluntary donations. The present to the squadron in particular seems to have been obtained by very unjustifiable acts and measures which we conceive will reflect very little honor upon a servant of His Majesty acting in so high a station. But we would choose to avoid making further remarks since the next dispatches will afford you an opportunity of forming your own judgement of transactions so deeply interesting to the national character. It appears however upon the most positive testimony that the donation to the army was a free and unsolicited present from the Nabob bestowed on Major Adams and the army as a pledge of their faithful services at the most critical juncture and a ransom of the money and effects in such cities and towns as might fall into their hands and be subject to the violence of the soldiers. It is not therefore surprising that this donation should have been voluntary while the sums granted for restitution to the merchants and a present to the navy flowed with so ill a grace from His Excellency who could not possibly expect any equivalent services.

23 When we have dispatched the *Lord Camden* we shall proceed to enforce such of your orders as we have not already anticipated and you may rest assured that neither prejudice nor favor to individuals shall warp us from that duty which we owe to you our constituents and to our own honour.

24 We are sorry to acquaint you that on the 8th day of May His Excellency the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowlah breathed his last after a short illness incurred by some intemperance in eating and increased by a gross habit of body and unsound constitution. As he was a prince of mean capacity bred up in total ignorance of public affairs this event which formerly might have produced important consequences in the provinces can at present have no other effect than that of exhibiting to the eyes of a people a mere change of persons in the *Aizamut*. Nudjum ul Dowlah dying without issue his brother Sey ul Dowlah succeeded to his dignities and promises from the mildness and pliancy of his disposition to answer all the purposes of a Nabob to the people and to the Company. At present he is a youth not exceeding the age of sixteen which more immediately and naturally brings the administration into the hands of persons in whom we can repose confidence.

25 Before this time you have probably determined the fate of the inland trade in salt betel and tobacco whether it may be continued under the regulations we have established or totally to be relinquished by your servants? We shall therefore only observe on this occasion that certain amendments are now proposed by the President and adopted by the Select Committee which we think will remove every inconvenience observed in the present establishment of that trade and secure to the Company the power of rewarding or punishing their servants according to the degree of their merit or misconduct.

26 We are further to inform you that the Committee nominated by us to inspect the conduct of the several departments at the Presidency have entered upon the duty of their appointment. They have in consequence framed divers regulations which we think well calculated to promote your interest as they are conducive to the order and despatch of business for which reason we propose carrying them into execution with all convenient expedition.

27 From observing the great increase in the expences of living in Calcutta the Committee of Inspection have published their regulations to a reform

mation of the police of the settlement From the general attention of late years to this object, the articles of diet wages house rent &c have risen so exorbitantly that your allowance to junior servants is very inadequate to their necessary and unavoidable expences and this we consider as the reason why they have hitherto been indulged with larger salaries than you approve annexed to their several employments In the present flourishing situation of your affairs, we should apprehend their appointments ought to afford them a decent and sufficient maintenance, enough to preserve them against every attempt to meanness and dishonesty, but too little to support them in profusion and extravagance

We have the honor to be with great respect

Honble Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants

(Signed) Clive / John Carnar /

H Verelst

Fort William,  
September 8th, 1766



*First of shipping*

2 We therein advised you of the safe arrival of all the ships appointed this season for our side of India except the *Pigot* for Coast and Bay which arrived at Madras the 19th of August and sailed from thence for this place the 20th September with orders to call at Masulipatnam with stores. Having learned she had left that place the 6th of October we were in daily expectation of her but we have since by private advices heard of her being put back to Madras.

3 Of the three Bombay ships to call at Madras with troops for this Presidency we find by a letter from the gentlemen there dated the 20th September that the *Anson* and *Speaker* were arrived. We shall have occasion for five ships to carry home the investments of this Presidency and we understand that they have full cargoes for three ships from the Coast eight ships therefore are required for the investments of the two settlements and as you destined seven only this season for the Coast and Bay we have concerted measures with the other two Presidencies to provide for so great a deficiency of tonnage in consequence of which the President and Council at Bombay have come to the resolution of sending round to us the *Duke of Albany* and *Nottingham* from their side and the gentlemen at Madras have advised us of their intention to send on to us the *Anson* and *Devonshire*. If the four Bombay ships above mentioned and the *Pigot* arrive safely with us, we shall have seven ships including the *Britannia* and *Cruttenden* now in Bengal and  
 (Cons 20 October in that case we shall provide the gentlemen at Madras with all the tonnage they have desired that is two ships besides the *Lord Camden* already returned to the Coast. But should we be disappointed of one of the ships from Madras and Bombay we shall not be able to spare above one and a half for Madras besides the *Camden* as we cannot possibly do with less than four and a half without exposing too much of the Company's property upon one bottom.

4 The President and Council at Fort St George have recommended that one of the ships to be sent to their Presidency be ordered to call at Pegue for a cargo of timber and plank provided she could be dispatched in time to prosecute that voyage and arrive with them by the 20th of February at farthest. As our last advices from Pegue inform us that no timbers were then come down from the country we do not think it possible for this measure to be effected without putting the arrival of the ship at Madras to a risk we ought not to run considering how much we are straitened for tonnage for our Europe cargoes of this we have acquainted the Madras Presidency and that we shall therefore dispatch the ships to them directly from hence.

5 We have had no accounts of any more of the *Falmouth's* people since our advices to you by the *Lord Camden* of the unfortunate loss of that ship. Our proceedings in the course of the enquiry into the conduct of Captain Hepburn together with his defence are entered in a book apart which comes a number in our packet whereto we beg leave to refer. Captain Hepburn having had notice given him that he cannot on any account whatever be suffered to remain in India we shall take care that he return to England in one of the ships of this season.



10 Mr Whitehill at Bandermaalanka made offers lately to contract for building schooners not exceeding one hundred tons that should be strong and fit for the river service and equipped with all appurtenances at the rate of A.Rs 13,000 each. As the vessels

23 June that have been built there bore a good character and appeared to be much cheaper than those sent round from Bombay which we have always been under the necessity of finding in stores here we acceded to his proposal and sent him a plan for their construction which had been delivered in by our

Master Attendant. Mr Whitehill made his objections to this plan and enclosed a draft of two schooners he had at that time upon the stocks intended to be sent to Bengal when we shall be the better able to form a judgement whether they will answer our purpose.

11 The Master Attendant after his return from his search down the River in quest of the *Falmouth* whereof we acquainted you in our letter per Lord Camden laid before us a sketch of the several places

1 July and channels he had been at having reason to believe the passage by Channel Creek to be the safest for ships going out of the River in the months of March and April. We have directed and are now prosecuting a survey thereof the northerly monsoon being set in and should it answer our expectations the discovery will prove of the greatest utility.

12. After the *Ponsborne* had sailed out of the River on her return to Europe in March last information was given of her having been run aground while in charge of Mr Peter Persoon the pilot. A court of enquiry was immediately ordered to

1 April examine into his conduct and he was adjudged so far culpable as to be reduced from the rank of a first to that of a second pilot.

12 May such an example was thought necessary not only as a punishment to Mr Persoon but that it might have a proper influence on the conduct of others who may be entrusted with a charge of so much importance and he has since on account of his age and infirmities been permitted to resign the service.

13 Mr Grant the pilot who was dismissed the service for neglect on board the *Blanchelsea* and whom you had directed to be restored died some time before the receipt of your orders.

14 Our Master Attendant made a regular and careful survey of the River in May last by which it appeared to be in a better state than the preceding year several of the channels having a greater depth of water. This circumstance which is occasioned by the shifting of the sands shows the great necessity of having the most exact surveys taken annually which you may be assured shall be properly attended to.

15 The Dutch had made it a constant rule at the departure of their last ship of the season to take up their leading buoys in the river which they did not lay down again till the time drew near for their expected ships. A such a practice might be attended with

fatal consequences to our shipping, which are coming in and going out at all seasons, we made the necessary remonstrances to the gentlemen at Chinsura upon this occasion and they have promised in future to provide themselves with spare buoys to replace such as it may be necessary to take up to be repaired

16 The Committee of Inspection having represented that the encroachments made of late years by the River have been greatly owing to the cutting away the banks in order to lay vessels and boats ashore, which at the same time is a great nuisance to the inhabitants whose houses are situated by the water side In order to remove these inconveniences and likewise to prevent the danger attending all loaded boats coming to the Custom House Ghaut by which the collection of your customs was interrupted and impeded, we directed the Master Attendant to point out a proper spot for laying vessels of all kinds ashore and he has represented Meyapore Reach about 24 miles below the town as the most convenient place for that purpose We have therefore caused public notice to be given, and are now forming regulations for the same which will take place as soon as a sufficient number of artificers can be engaged to reside there for the execution of this service

17 The Master Attendant has lately discovered and given us information of several abuses that had crept into the establishment of lascars in the marine service through the imposition of the *syrangs* from whom they received their wages and at the same time recommended that they should be put upon the footing of those employed by private merchants who find them in provisions, the charge of which would not exceed the difference in rate of wages paid by them, and the allowance made to the lascars by the Company in lieu thereof This proposal appeared so well calculated to remedy the abuses complained of, that it has been adopted with some other regulations for the better conducting this branch which appear on the face of our Consultations

18 In consequence of the orders contained in the 13th paragraph of your commands dated the 13th December 1765 for supplying the Governor and Council at St Helena with a sufficient quantity of salt provisions for the use of the garrison and inhabitants, we have ordered 50 puncheons to be salted up here to be sent thither by the homeward bound ships of this season This provided the meat can be preserved, will be a more certain and probably a cheaper method of supplying them than by the commanders of the Europe ships and we hope will meet with your approbation

19 The orders you have been pleased to give with respect to the dispatch of casual ships to China shall be directly attended to on every occasion

20 There have only imported here this season two ships of the French Company's vizt the *Ajax* and *Marquis de Castres*, but their agents here have given out that they are in expectation of five others under the command of Monsieur Law, brother of their present Governor, which are private property and to remain in India,

*Secondly of goods from Europe or from one part of India to another*

21 Agreeably to what we wrote you in our letter per *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson* of the 24th of March the woollens received last season were put up to sale the 1st May and we took the same opportunity of putting up the copper lead and tin the accounts sales whereof come numbers in the packet the medium price on the sales on the several articles appear in the price current transmitted herewith

22 In your General Letter of the 24th of December the reasons are assigned for our being supplied with 100 tons of lead only on which we must take the liberty to remark that this article is wanted for other purposes besides military stores but supposing that quantity to be sufficient for the occasions of this Presidency the less sent out to us will cause the greater importation by the French and Dutch by whose means the country powers can get themselves supplied and to whom a larger profit will consequently accrue by the sale thereof We therefore hope these considerations will induce you to supply us as heretofore.

23 Our indents for 1768 wait upon you by this ship made out in the most explicit manner as you have been pleased to direct, and we are to request they may be fully complied with more especially the medicines military stores and such other articles as are required for the use and occasions of the settlement the supplies hitherto sent being by no means equal to the demand. Your Europeans in general especially civilians and officers are now become so numerous and the quantity required so much beyond what we have hitherto been furnished with that all ranks of men would have suffered beyond conception if we had not purchased to a very considerable amount and at a very extravagant price medicines from the French Dutch Danes and the officers of your ships We beg leave also to recommend that all compound medicines be sent from Apothecaries Hall as those lately received are much complained of

24 Neither hats nor shoes for our military can be procured from the captains or officers of the ships both these articles are absolutely necessary for the preservation of the mens healths and we must therefore beg leave to repeat our wishes of being supplied with them

25 The Madeira wine received this season by the *Britannia* turns out very well much superior to that sent out last year a distribution thereof amongst the civil and military servants at this Presidency has been settled at the usual advance for further particulars we beg leave to refer to the Import Warehouse Keeper's report which comes a number in the packet

26 On the arrival of the *Pigot* we shall make a trial of the vidonia wine and report the same with all the particulars you have required by the first opportunity

27 In our letter of the 24th March we acquainted you of our having limited the price of necessaries imported from Europe to put a stop to the exorbitant prices demanded for them by the commanders and officers of the Europe ships we are more and more convinced of the necessity of such a regulation and that it might be the more effectually carried into execution

this year we put the sale of the several articles under the direction of a steward, one of your covenanted servants who purchases the several articles from the captains and officers for which purpose he is advanced money out of the treasury and distributes them occasionally to such persons only as may want them for their own immediate use to prevent their being monopolized and retailed again at an exorbitant advance and he is directed to charge 10 per cent on the original cost of the several articles in Europe to indemnify the Company for any loss by damage, leakage, or wastage To this practice it has been greatly owing that so many European vagabonds have been able to maintain themselves at Calcutta and even so as to live with splendour and affluence

28 The large supplies of treasure sent from hence to Canton for some years past and the last season in particular will we hope fully convince you that the utmost attention has been paid to your repeated injunction for the support of that important branch of your trade We have empowered the gentlemen at Madras to draw upon us without limitation until January next, and we are purchasing all the bullion that comes into the place on the most moderate terms for our next consignment which we hope will be equal to that of last year if we do not receive advice from the gentlemen at Canton to the contrary, who we are informed have a very large quantity on hand

### *Thurdly of investments*

29 By the *Lord Camden* we acquainted you of our hopes that the investment providing this season would not fall short of fifty lacks The utmost attention has been paid to the improvement of the different assortments of the different cloths and at the end of the year we shall as usual transmit to you our remarks on the whole

30 In consequence of our resolution to enlarge your investment as much as possible in every branch Mr Graham, the Resident at Midnapore, advised us he should be able to encrease the provision at that  
29 September factory forty thousand rupees We therefore advanced him that sum on the merchants engaging to deliver the goods by the end of February

31 In May last the gentlemen at Cossimbuzar informed us that the excessive droughts last season had destroyed the greatest part of the mulberry shrubs, whereby the farmers were deprived of large  
20 May quantities of their worms, for want of proper nourishment, which they apprehended might prove a detriment to your silk investment, but we have the pleasure to advise you that they have already dispatched to us goods to the amount of ten lacks of rupees and we flatter ourselves we shall before the dispatch of the latter ships receive from six to seven lacks more

32 On the receipt of your orders this season concerning the next year's investment, the necessary directions were immediately sent  
14 July to the subordinates and different *aurungs* to take the  
14 August earliest means for the provision of their respective goods

33 The opinion you entertained of the appointment of junior servants to the *aurungs* experience has shewn was but too justly founded Their misconduct has been the source of a number of complaints

26 May without any advantages to the provision of your investment. Sensible of this before the receipt of your orders we came to the resolution of recalling them in May last and have appointed *gomastalis* at the *aurungs* of Keerpoy Hurrypall and Harryall. Buddaul *aurung* being contiguous to Maulda we have thought it most eligible to annex it to that Residency and it is now under the direction of Mr Barwell your Resident there.

34 At the same time that we have judged it advisable to put the investment at the *aurungs* under the inspection of *gomastalis* we are sufficiently apprized of the necessity that some method should be devised to keep them under controul and thus you may be assured shall be properly attended to

35 It is with concern we observe that our having been under the necessity of suspending the provision of your investment at Dacca and Cossimbuzar in May 1764 should be considered by you as a measure  
Genl. Lre 74th  
Decr 1763 para 16 prejudicial to your interest. On a review of the state of your affairs at that period it appears that we were obliged to divert the funds intended for the investment to the support of the army in the field when everything was at stake and on which the very being of the Company's affairs in Bengal then depended.

36 We hope there is no need of repeating our assurances that our best  
Do para 18 endeavours shall be exerted for the extending and improving your investment which will now become a branch of so much importance and we shall take care as you have been pleased to recommend to confine as far as possible within the circle of our own possessions

37 The Committee of *aurungs* in June last reported to us that the muster cloth from Santipore *aurung* turned out so very bad both in quality and price that there was no prospect of making any purchases  
23 June there this season with advantage to the honble Company. We therefore came to a resolution of encreasing the investments at Keerpoy and Hurrypaul and to suspend any further purchases at Santipore *aurung* until we could discover the true cause of these complaints for which purpose we directed Messrs Hawkins and Delaport to proceed thither in order to make the strictest enquiry into the same

38 The gentlemen at Chittagong have experienced some difficulties in their purchases of the *chube a bastars* from the great increase of price given  
7 July for this a sortment of cloth by the French at Jugdea but notwithstanding these impediments we hope they will not fall short of your orders

39 Our saltpetre investment this season with what remained in our  
13 Aug 1764  
pewdown of the last years provision will we reckon amount to about one hundred and fifteen thousand maunds of thi we have agreed to set apart 25,000 maunds for the supply of the Dutch and 15,000 maunds for the French and have come to the resolution of sending the following supplies to the other two presidencies vizt

		Mds
To Madras		
	for the use of the settlement	5,000
	for 3 ships to Europe	12,000
		<hr/>
		17,000
To Bombay		
	for the use of the settlement	3,000
	for 3 ships to Europe	15,000
		<hr/>
		18,000
20 June	and we shall lade on board the five ships intended to be dispatched from hence 22,000 maunds	
40	We shall be careful that the quantity of opium required for your investment shall be provided before any purchases are suffered to be made by your servants on private account The gentlemen at	
23 June	Fort Marlbro' have indented this season for fifty chests only with which they will be supplied by the earliest opportunities	

41 A particular statement of the old outstanding balances which have been regularly accumulating since the first appointment of *gomastahs* to the *aurungs* for the provision of your investment made up to the 24th instant comes a number in the packet We hope it will appear to you that our endeavours have not been wanting to collect as many of them as possible and we further flatter ourselves with being able to recover the greatest part thereof The sum still outstanding on this account being C Rs 57,481-15-9 is included in the abstract of the *aurung* transactions, to which we beg leave to refer you for an account of the very large advances made out this season for the provision of your investment, the receipt of the returns, and the amount outstanding

*Fourthly of the trade of India, transactions with European powers, country government &c*

42 The observations and orders contained in your letter dated the 19th of February with respect to the inland trade in salt, betelnut and tobacco, having been taken into consideration by the Select Committee, the advices relative thereto will be communicated to you from that department to which we beg leave to refer

43 It shall ever be our care to avoid disputes with the Dutch and we wish we could inform you they were equally well disposed We affirm that they never enjoyed such advantages in Bengal as they do at present but nevertheless they are continually importuning us with frivolous complaints We may also observe that the representations both from the Dutch and French are made in such general terms that we are not furnished with sufficient lights to effect

31 March 1757



a scrutiny We have therefore informed them that when they can mark out to us any real grievances they may depend on having all the satisfaction in our power in short we cannot but be of opinion that both Dutch and French follow an old trite maxim practised by the former time out of mind that of complaining without cause to prevent cause being given of complaint.

17 May  
6 Do.  
8 June.

satisfaction in our power in short we cannot but be of opinion that both Dutch and French follow an old trite maxim practised by the former time out of mind that of

complaining without cause to prevent cause being given of complaint.

44 The Dutch have lately laid claim to a piece of ground at Ballasore that was occupied by our Resident. From the informations obtained by his means it is far from being clear that they have any right thereto but we thought it a matter of too little consequence to become the subject of dispute and therefore ordered it to be delivered up to them

3 May  
1 September

right thereto but we thought it a matter of too little consequence to become the subject of dispute and therefore

ordered it to be delivered up to them

45 In consequence of the 11th article of the late treaty of peace M Law has been put in possession of such ground as they heretofore held in Chuprah Singhia Futwahi and Ponerack in the province of Bahar

31 March  
11 September  
13 October

Orders have also been given to our commissary to deliver up to them a small piece of ground they formerly possessed at Begum Serah near Patna but the act has not yet passed as the commissary on the part of the French has objected to the manner in which it is to be worded and says that he waits the orders of M. Law before he can sign it.

46. The French have also laid claim to a spot of land they pretend to have possessed at the beginning of the year 1749 at Goualpara on the road from Dacca to Assam and to another in the province of Chittagong in answer to which we have acquainted M Law they cannot be put in possession thereof until proofs can be produced of their having actually enjoyed them in 1749

47 Under the second head we have mentioned the portions of salt petre allotted the Dutch and French this season the former are dissatisfied with the share set apart for them alledging it is insufficient for their occasions and would prove to us that it is reasonable and expected by their employers that they should enjoy the same privileges in that branch with ourselves. We have replied that it is both reasonable and equitable they should bear a part with us to supply the French who are equally entitled with them to a proportion of this article. We have however assured them that if at the end of the season we can spare them a further quantity without distressing ourselves they may depend on it.

29 September

their occasions and would prove to us that it is reasonable

and expected by their employers that they should enjoy the same privileges in that branch with ourselves. We have replied that it is both reasonable and equitable they should bear a part with us to supply the French who are equally entitled with them to a proportion of this article. We have however assured them that if at the end of the season we can spare them a further quantity without distressing ourselves they may depend on it.

48 In our address per *Lonsfornie* and *Admiral Watson* dated the 24th March last we gave the explanation you required with respect to the complaints made by the Dutch on the subject of their opium trade This branch will hereafter be regulated and conducted through the channel of the country government at which the Dutch are in some degree alarmed lest they should not have influence enough to procure the quantity required for their occasions But we have assured them that we shall use our influence with the government for their being supplied with this article at the same rates that are paid by your servants that they may have no cause to complain

29 September

trade This branch will hereafter be regulated and con-

ducted through the channel of the country government at which the Dutch are in some degree alarmed lest they should not have influence enough to procure the quantity required for their occasions But we have assured them that we shall use our influence with the government for their being supplied with this article at the same rates that are paid by your servants that they may have no cause to complain

49 We acquainted you by the *Lord Camden* of the death of the Nabob Najum-ul Dowla on the 8th of May and of his being succeeded in the *subadarry* by his next brother Syf-O Dowlah. The treaties subsisting between the late Nabob and the Company have been ratified and confirmed and a new one entered into with the Nabob Syf-O Dowlah<sup>1</sup> which has been executed in four copies, one of which makes a number in this packet

10 May  
12 Do  
13 Do  
2 June  
9 Do

50 Immediately after the dispatch of the *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson* in March, Lord Clive and General Carnac set out for the city to settle a plan for the collection of the revenues and for other purposes of which you will no doubt receive advice from the Select Committee. Soon after the arrival of his Lordship and of the General at Mootagheel we received a letter from them and Mr Sykes acquainting us that the two Scats, sons of those who were cut off by Cossim Ali Cawn<sup>2</sup> on account of their attachment to the English Company had laid before them a claim amounting to between fifty and sixty lacks of rupees, thirty of which having been lent to the zemindars, they did not think the Government answerable for, but that their claim of twenty one lacks lent to the Nabob Meer Jaffier for the support of his and the English army, they were of opinion was just and reasonable, however, as it would be inconsistent with equity now that the revenues of the country are appropriated to the Company to expect that the Nabob should pay the whole, they proposed that the said sum should be discharged by the Company and the Nabob in equal payments within the space of ten years *vizt* one lack of rupees each per annum for the first nine years and one lack and a half each for the tenth or last year. We could not but acquiesce in the justness of this proposal and make no doubt but you will approve the same.

51 The grand *poonah* was held at Mootagheel the 29th April last when his Excellency the late Nabob sat as *Nazim* and the Right Hon'ble the President on behalf of the Company as *Duan*.

52 We have the pleasure to inform you that Sujah Dowlah discharged three months before it became due, his obligation to the Company for 50 lacks of rupees agreeably to the treaty concluded at Allahabad the 16th August 1765. Although in the treaty no particular specie of rupées is specified, the Nabob has paid twenty seven lacks in *sunnaut* rupees, which carry the highest *batta* of any in his dominions, and the Company by that means and receiving the remaining twenty three laaks in *siccas* have gained an advantage of one lack and fifteen thousand *sonnaut* rupees, a particular statement of the said obligation shewing the times and manner of payment appears on the face of our Consultations.

53 The inconveniences pointed out in your General Letter of the 24th December attending the rise and fall of *batta* in the different species of rupees in this country are very obvious and we shall take the first opportunity of consulting with the ministers at the city upon the means of applying an effectual remedy, in the meantime, we hope those inconveniencies will be obviated in a great measure by the gold currency we have endeavored to establish, the plan whereof appears in a separate paper which comes a number in the packet. The said new currency having had the sanction of the Nabob and his ministers, the order for establishing it had been proclaimed throughout the

provinces and we hope a little time will reconcile it to the natives. A considerable quantity of this coin has already been issued from the mint and we are endeavoring to introduce it both in our civil and military departments.

54 Your remarks respecting the mint have been communicated to our Assay Master who will by the next opportunity furnish you with such observations as have occurred to him in the progress of that business since his new regulations. The coins sent to Europe to be assayed at the Tower are indiscriminately taken from the different species and we must in justice to Mr Campbell our present Assay Master assure you that his conduct in the management of your mint has been to our entire approbation.

55 The preventing the country powers from being supplied with small arms and military stores is now become an object of very serious consequence but although every precaution to that end has been taken  
 5 August on our part this evil is not yet effectually remedied as we find they still make their way to Agra and into Sujah Dowlah's country by means of the Morattoes who are furnished with large quantities from the Malabar Coast. We have therefore recommended to the consideration of the gentlemen at Bombay the falling on some means to prevent the same.

56 The country government seconding our endeavors to put a stop to the importation of military stores a quantity lately brought on a Danish ship  
 3 September was stopped by the *Phouladar* of Hughly in consequence of their orders on which the Right Honorable the President received a letter from the Governor of Fredericknagore informing him these stores had been indented for long before the order was issued for prohibiting their sale and representing that it would therefore be a hard ship if the Danish Company were to incur the loss of them whereupon to prevent their falling into improper hand we determined to purchase them upon your account.

57 Being of opinion that it would be of great use to the public if we could be supplied with furs from the Bateer country by means of the river Gunduc which empties itself into the Ganges opposite  
 23 October Patna we have appointed Mr Droz one of your servants upon that errand who has directions at the same time to obtain every possible information of the produce of that country.

#### *Fifths of fortifications buildings and revenues*

58 The address of Captain Martin Chief Engineer comes a number in the packet giving an account of the present state of the New Fort. We see with concern the enormous expences incurred by this work and are endeavouring to fix on a plan for completing the same with more expedition and a less charge than has been the case hitherto and in which we have reason to suspect that too many abuses have been committed.

59 Captain Martin has addressed the Board in answer to the remark you have been pleased to make on his letter to you under date the 1st December 1761 a copy whereof makes a number in this packet.

60 In consequence of the orders contained in the 23rd paragraph of  
 your commands of the 24th December, we have ordered  
 22 August the office of Superintendant of the Bricks to be abolished  
 and that business in future to be conducted by the Committee of Works

61 In conformity also to your orders for abolishing the allowances to  
 the Superintendant of the Roads, we have resolved that you shall not be put  
 to any further charge on that account, at the same time we must beg leave to  
 represent to you the great utility of this office contributing as well to the  
 convenience of travellers as to the health of the inhabitants, and therefore  
 we hope this matter will again merit your consideration, in the meantime the  
 charge of a surveyor will be defrayed by the inhabitants from the additional  
 ground rent they have agreed to pay for that purpose

62 Your directions for postponing the building of a church until every  
 other building be completed shall be duly attended to, however, we could  
 have wished to have had your permission for constructing a convenient place  
 of public worship which we think essential towards a reformation of the  
 morals of the individuals of this settlement, the present building in use for that  
 purpose not being able to contain a quarter part of the European inhabitants

63 Taking into consideration the great inconveniency attending the want  
 of a proper hospital for our military, the present one being only a temporary  
 building in the old fort prejudicial to the inhabitants from  
 29 September its situation in the midst of the town and destitute of the  
 needful accommodations, we have determined on having a commodious one  
 erected and have given directions for a proper spot to be fixed upon for that  
 purpose

64 The present burial ground being situated in the middle of the town,  
 has, we have reason to believe, contributed greatly to its  
*Ibid* being unhealthy, we therefore intend to remove it to a  
 distant and convenient spot

65 The house occupied by the Import Warehouse Keeper having been  
 surveyed and reported to be in a ruinous condition, has been disposed of and  
 we have been obliged to purchase in lieu thereof one  
 12 May situated opposite the burying ground and near the River  
 2 June with large and substantial godowns for A Rs 30,000 The  
 proper offices in the New Fort notwithstanding our utmost endeavours being  
 not as yet begun, reduced us to the necessity of making this purchase

66 The obelisk at Patna erected to the memory of the unhappy gentle-  
 men who suffered there by the cruelty of Cossim Ali Cawn in 1763 is the only  
 monument that has been erected at your expense, those for Admiral Watson  
 and Major Adams, although orders did pass for their being erected in our  
 Consultations the 18th June and 10th September, were notwithstanding built  
 at the expence of those estates

67 In consequence of your orders we transmit in this packet a plan of  
 the obelisk erecting at Patna which described its present state and what  
 remains yet to complete it according to the original plan  
 29 September We find it has already cost 56,000 rupees and to complete  
 it in stone would require 15 or sixteen thousand more, we have therefore

directed its being finished in brick work, the expense whereof according to an estimate transmitted us, will not exceed four thousand rupees and we shall be careful not to erect any monuments in future without your permission being first obtained.

68 The Resident at Midnapore having set forth the necessity of having a magazine in the fort we have permitted one to be erected  
6 October and directed it to be done with the strictest economy

69 Thinking it would be more for the advantage of the Company to let out to rent the 15 Dees without the Moratta Ditch than to keep them in our own hands which was attended with much expense we  
9 June determined to make the trial they were accordingly put up to sale and let out from May 1766 to May 1767 for rupees 30,050 which is between 9 and 10,000 rupees more than the collections amounted to the preceding year

70 By an account of the *jamaabundy* or new measurement of part of the Calcutta Pergunnahs lately delivered in by the Collector it appears that the rent of them for the present year clear of all charges  
7 September amounts to seven rupees 6,62,070 which exceeds the last year's rent by 11,428 and we hope a proportionable increase will arise from a re-measurement of the remaining pergunnahs which we have ordered to be completed as soon as possible

71 In our letter of the 24th of March last per Ponsborne and Admiral Haison we mentioned that in future the advices relative to your revenues would be communicated to you through the channel of your President and Council but as the Select Committee have not yet thought proper to transfer over to us the management of this branch we must again refer you to their advices for information on that subject.

*11th and 11th of covenant and military servants and accounts*

72 Of the twenty three writers you have been pleased to appoint for this settlement the last year Mr Ray and Mr Retson died on  
6 August the passage and Mr Fitzherbert soon after his arrival here the other except those in the Pigot are arrived and have been stationed in the different offices

73 Mr Howitt and Mr Wynne having executed their covenants they are returned by the ship Mr Hosea whom you have been pleased to entertain in the civil list had been employed in your military service notice has been given him for his appointment and on his coming to Calcutta the covenant sent out for him shall also be executed and returned

74 Mr Chadwin mentioned in the 45th paragraph of your General Letter dated the 19th February came out a cadet and now act as Deputy Paymaster to the 3rd Brigade and as this gentleman bears a very favorable character we beg leave again to intercede with you for his being received on your list of covenanted servants

75 The last season has been uncommonly unhealthy and we are sorry to inform you it has carried off no less than six of your servants besides Mr Wm

Fitzherbert already mentioned, *vizt*, Mr William Shewen a junior merchant, Mr James Ashburner a factor, and Messrs John Savage, Robert Burford, Rivers Grindall and John Majoribanks, writers who came out the last year

76 In our letter per *Ponsborne* and *Admiral Watson*, we mentioned that Mr Russell's health had already been so much affected by his attention to the desk since his arrival here as to give us little hopes of his being able to continue long in the Secretary's employ, accordingly after the dispatch of those ships he found himself under the necessity of resigning it and Mr Aldersey has succeeded him in the charge of that department

31st March

77 In consequence of the resolutions of the Select Committee which were laid before the Board the 18th September last, 18 September Mr Rumbold was admitted to a seat in Council next after 22 Do Mr Russell

78 We are of opinion that the number of junior servants now upon this establishment is quite sufficient for carrying on the business in the several departments, but this we shall be the better able to judge of when the offices are properly arranged, the regulating of which is now under the consideration of the Committee of Inspection

79 Copies of the 47th, 51st and 52nd paragraphs of your General Letter dated the 19th of February have been delivered to Messrs Plaisted, Plowman and Hunter with orders to the two last to pay obedience thereto

80 Soon after your orders for Mr Hunter's return to Fort Marlbro' had transpired, many of the principal inhabitants of the place represented to the Right Honorable the President the great service that gentleman had been of to the settlement in general by his knowledge and experience in his profession, sufficiently evinced by the success with which his practice had been attended during his residence in this part of India, that in particular his assiduity and diligence during the late unhealthy season had given the inhabitants in general a very favorable opinion of his skill in physic and made them anxious for his continuance at this Presidency who therefore solicited that if possible we might suspend the immediate execution of your orders and intercede in their name for his being permitted to remain on this establishment

81 We are and shall at all times be extremely cautious of deviating in the least from your orders, especially in a case of this nature, as you have so repeatedly signified your disapprobation of persons being removed from one settlement to another without your leave previously obtained, at the same time we are so well convinced of the circumstances alleged in favor of Mr Hunter that we could not but regard the being deprived of his assistance as a real loss to the settlement We have therefore ventured to listen to the request of the inhabitants and in this instance to suspend the execution of your orders respecting that gentleman until your further pleasure can be known

13th October

82 Our being provided with able surgeons in this unhealthy part of India being a matter equally interesting to the public service and to individuals, Mr Rutlege who came out last season with free merchant's indentures,

who is well recommended for his knowledge in that profession has been entered by us a supernumerary surgeon on this establishment and we hope he will be confirmed by you as such.

83 After the loss of the *Falmouth* Mr Symmonds the surgeon of that ship and Mr Four his mate made application to be employed as surgeons mates at this settlement their request has been complied with in consequence of your permission signified in the 26th paragraph of your commands dated the 26th April 1765

84 The surgeons permitted to come to Bengal this season shall be appointed to the first vacancies in the order you have been pleased to direct.

85 In our letter by the *Lord Camden* we gave an account of the extraordinary combination the officers of our army had entered into to force us to the necessity of restoring their double *batta* which had been taken off from 1st January last and of our having with much difficulty and perseverance disappointed that pernicious scheme which had it succeeded might have been attended with the most fatal consequences to your affairs We at the same time mentioned the information that had been lodged against Lt Colonel Sir Robert Fletcher as a principal instigator of that dishonorable association in consequence of which he had been put under an arrest That several other officers were to be tried for mutiny and disobedience of orders and that Captain Sturmforth was likewise to take his trial for having uttered threatening expressions against the life of Lord Clive

86 It is with the utmost concern and astonishment we find that proofs have fully appeared of Sir Robert Fletcher's having not only connived at but even promoted the military combination in consequence of which he has been captured and proceed to England on this ship.

87 The other courts martial having been also concluded copies thereof are transmitted in the packet for your more particular information

88 The officers who had thrown up their commissions in the late association being ordered down to Calcutta we came to the resolution of sending to England such of them as appeared to have been the most active in it and accordingly gave notice to five of them Messrs Duffield Robertson Wilding Skinner and Petrie to prepare for embarking by the first opportunity When the *Camden* was under dispatch in August we repeated the notice to Mr Duffield and Mr Robertson who gave us for answer in a remonstrance setting forth that they should be greatly distressed if driven to the necessity of leaving the place before they could settle their affairs and therefore declaring that they could not comply with our orders for embarking on board that ship

89 Apprehensive that we would not thus permit them to baffle our authority and that we were determined (as we had intimated to them) that our orders if not willingly submitted to should be obeyed by compulsion they each delivered in a protest declaring us responsible for the consequences of enforcing their return to Europe Mr Robertson at the same time representing that the ill state of his health would not admit of his making such a voyage without endangering his life That we might be in no doubt how far this assertion was founded in truth we directed our principal surgeons to visit him who soon reported to us

Sept rate Proceed  
by 11 Sept

their opinion that they did not apprehend there could be any objection to his going on board of ship on account of his health

90 As a dernier resort those gentlemen thought proper to shut themselves up in their houses and barricade their doors These means they concluded would effectually secure them from the civil power, and as to martial law they defied it, because they had been pleased to resign their commissions and would therefore no longer be considered as military men A guard was however appointed to apprehend them with strict orders not to force doors or windows but to watch an opportunity of seizing them with as little violence as possible Messrs Duffield and Robertson suspecting the measures we would pursue, had it seems laid in such stock of provisions as would serve them till the time we should be obliged to dispatch the *Camden* In this situation therefore they continued during several days when having obtained information or conjecturing that the ship had sailed, they opened their doors, came forth were apprehended by the guard, and without delay sent to Madrass on board the *Ann* sloop which had been taken up for that purpose and properly prepared for their accommodation Our letter to that Presidency by the same conveyance requested they might be sent to Europe by the *Lord Camden* as charter party passengers and we shall continue to send home such others of the officers concerned in the association as appear unworthy to be readmitted into the service Messrs Duffield and Robertson at the time they had confined themselves in their house as mentioned in the preceding paragraph, addressed us as Justices of the Peace for redress against the measures of the President and Council The proceedings of the Bench of Justices on that occasion are transmitted in the book packet to which we beg leave to refer

91 Our proceedings on the occasion of the association are entered in a book apart from our other records and are transmitted by this ship, by which you will have a distinct view of the whole

92 To conclude, the contest which we have related seems to have been carried on with a design to try how far we could and would extend our authority, and as it is possible that these gentlemen on their arrival in England may commence a prosecution against us for having forced them to leave the settlement and to proceed to Europe, we take the liberty of claiming every necessary vindication and support from you, not doubting but you will observe that our measures in the course of this disagreeable affair have been entirely directed by our coolest reflexions, upon the true interest and honor of the Company, the critical necessity of the times and our indispensable duty to our employers We must further entreat you to acquaint us as soon as possible how far and by what means we are authorized by law to proceed in cases of this nature Violent and sudden measures for the sending home a person who has your permission to reside in India as a free merchant, might be deemed oppressive, because the plea of requiring time to settle his mercantile concern seems fair and reasonable, yet it is necessary we should know to what time we may legally limit him Our authority to seize and send instantly to England those who forming schemes to overset the Government, must be considered as incendiaries and conspirators against the Company, is we hope clearly legal, for if it be not the deficiency may one day or other prove the utter ruin of all your affairs in the East Indies,



93 On our application to the free merchants for their assistance on the late emergency those whose names are inserted in the enclosed list were the only gentlemen who offered their services as some reward we shall indulge them with the privilege of a *dustuck* and agreeable to our promise we beg leave to recommend them as being worthy of appointments on your civil list. Mr Dynely and Mr Corsar have in particular requested to have that favor conferred upon them

94 As the officers who came to our assistance from Madras had been drawn from distant garrisons after one or two days warning only and were hurried on board ship immediately on their arrival at Madras without an opportunity of disposing of their baggage or bringing it with them by which means they were almost entirely unprovided of every necessary of life and even of the means of supplying themselves here we thought some consideration due to officers under such circumstances who had shewn a zeal for your service on so pressing an emergency and therefore agreed that a thousand rupees should be paid to each captain and 500 to each subaltern which we hope will meet with your approbation

95 The officers saved from the *Falmouth* being in a very distressed situation we made them the same allowance as to those from the Coast and we also advanced 300 Rs to Mr Bright a writer of last season who came out in that ship and lost all that he had on board.

96 It is evident from the rise and progress of this combination that the gentlemen of the army paid particular attention to the letter of the Mutiny Act and hoped so far to avail themselves of the too obvious intention of Parliament as to evade that just severity of punishment which martial law must upon such an occasion in any other country have unavoidably inflicted

97 In the preamble to the Act a contract is expressly mentioned as one of the obligations necessary for subjecting an officer even in pay to the rules and articles of war and we doubt not but you will see the expediency of exacting such a contract from all officers who in future may engage themselves in your service

98 Could we with propriety animadvert upon the sentences passed by the late court martial we should be inclined to observe that the members themselves must have considered the defect we have mentioned as a plea on behalf of the prisoners which whether urged or not would render their proceedings bad in law and which should therefore direct their judgment to the side of mercy even against the fullest conviction of the guilt of the parties. Our apprehensions of creating an over tenderness of this nature added to the danger of intimating to the army at so critical a juncture our doubt that without a contract no officer was amenable to a military court determined us to postpone carrying into execution our resolution of the 9th of June till the sentences should be passed and your officers thereby convinced that the condonement of their service imperfect as they might expect them to be should expose them equally with the common soldier to the jurisdiction or at least to the sentence of a court martial

99 The impediments being now removed we have without difficulty succeeded in obtaining from every officer a contract to serve three years and

not even at the expiration of that period to resign without the consent of the Governor and Council or giving twelve months notice of their intention

100 As a mark of distinction declaratory of the confidence, we could safely repose in those few who did not engage in the dishonorable association, we have thought proper to leave them at liberty to execute the contracts or not as they pleased. All the field officers, however, having cheerfully set the example, the contract has been duly executed throughout the army

101 An objection indeed has been started by some of the King's half pay officers that any obligation of service to the Company might possibly so far displease His Majesty as to occasion their being struck off the half pay list. A clause releasing those gentlemen from their contract, in the case of their being ordered home by the King, would have been inserted had we not considered that no half pay officer can enter into your service without the King's permission, that such permission would be of no effect did it not convey to the officer the power of availing himself of it by serving the Company upon those conditions which the Mutiny Act has described, and which it rests with the Court of Directors to exact and that any such releasing clause might carry with it an implication that were it omitted the Company would or could detain the King's officers in their service though His Majesty should be pleased to recall them to his own

102 We are moreover credibly informed that at the end of the late war and likewise the former in 1748 when the King permitted the ensigns of his regiments then in the East Indies to enter your service, it was expressly mentioned in a letter from the Secretary at War to the Commander-in-Chief here that those ensigns "after they should have compleated their contract with the Company" and produced certificates of their good behaviour should be admitted to half pay on His Majesty's establishment. This circumstance the truth of which may be readily known by application to the War Office is a convincing proof that the King takes it for granted even his own officers when they enter into your service, are to be bound to serve you *by contract* in order that they may be subject to those articles of war which His Majesty hath been pleased by authority of Parliament to make for the government and discipline of your forces

103 We beg leave, however, to observe that as the objection seems to have arisen merely from punctilio and not from the desire of a power to commit offences with impunity, we shall perhaps not think it material to contest the point until your pleasure be known

104 A copy of the general form of contract which has been adopted is herewith sent, and it remains with you to establish any other that you may judge more properly applicable to the evil it is intended to remedy. The present one is only to be looked upon as an expedient but as we can here devise no better means of securing in the army a submission to the rules and articles of war, we shall not fail to continue it till your superior judgment shall have suggested an amendment unless some obligation of service be insisted on. We apprehend that the gracious intention of the legislature is frustrated and you preserve the authority to maintain an army without accepting the privilege of enforcing discipline by martial law. We therefore flatter ourselves

you will with all possible dispatch transmit to us printed forms of such contracts as you may determine shall be executed in future by all officers whom you may appoint in England or who may receive commission in India

105 As a proof that the civilians espoused the cause of the military in their late attempt to overrule our authority we need only refer to two anonymous letters intercepted which are entered on the face of our Consultations the one written by Mr Grindall to Lieut. Farmer the other by Mr Higginson to Ensign Robertson and who upon the discovery were immediately suspended from the service. Such a conduct was the more flagrant and unpardonable on the part of Mr Higginson acting in the public station of Sub Secretary which ought to have insured his attachment to the Company instead of suffering him to be concerned in promoting dissensions of so evil a tendency and he was one of the last persons we should have suspected as he had distinguished himself by a diligent attention to business and ever before bore a favorable character. We are induced from these circumstances to impute his late misconduct rather to indiscretion and the levity of youth during the late inflamed state of this settlement than to a worse motive and as he seems much affected by so public a mark of disgrace we are yet solicitous for his welfare and beg leave to submit his case to your consideration at the same time to intercede with you for having his suspension removed in the conviction of his being now fully sensible of his error and will approve himself deserving of such favor. Mr Grindall the author of the other anonymous letter is since dead as mentioned in the 75th paragraph.

106 A complete list of officers now doing duty in the different brigades comes a number in the packet shewing such as have been readmitted into the service and the officers from Madras who have been detained on this establishment.

107 The covenants concerning presents that have been executed by your civil and military servants since those sent home by the *Kent* and *Grenville* are forwarded by this ship of whom also a list is enclosed.

108 Lord Clive in a letter to the Board from Mootagheel dated the 8th April 1761 informed us of his intention to appropriate a legacy of 5 lacs of rupees bequeathed to him by the Nabob Meer Jaffer as a fund for the relief of the officers and private men who have or may become invalids in the Company's service and the widows of such as may lose their lives in it unless the Company should think proper to claim and prove a right to the same under the new covenants. His Lordship also proposed that the President and Council of Fort William should be perpetual trustees for the appropriation of this fund in India and the Court of Directors in England.

109 As we do not conceive such a legacy to be prohibited by the covenant we acquainted his Lordship in answer that we should cheerfully accept the honor he intended us in acting as trustees on this occasion and as the regulations finally establishing this institution must rest entirely with his Lordship we have nothing further to observe than that Lord Clive by so generous an instance of his disinterestedness and zealous attachment to the honor and welfare of the Company has secured to our force the only advantage wherein they have hitherto been

20 May  
9 June

14 April

inferior to any in the known world, and thereby ensured to you, a succession of the bravest and most honorable men and officers

110 The Committee of Inspection have gone through the examination of all the offices and employs at this settlement in which the accounts have been methodized and many other regulations introduced for conducting them on a proper plan in future, which we shall take care are properly adhered to. A compleat sett of their proceedings are transmitted by this ship to which we beg leave to refer

111 In consequence of a proposal made by the Committee of Inspection, we have given orders for the Old Fort to be converted into a custom house and to have two piers erected at the waterside for the convenience of landing and shipping of merchandize. There are some apartments in it that will serve for a *cottah* to which use they will be appropriated

12 May

112 The orders you have been pleased to give in your letter of the 19th February respecting the adjustment of several heads in your General Books were anticipated by the Committee of Inspection when they had the Accomptant's Department under consideration

113 The balances appearing to be due from John Cooke, Adrian Bisdorn, William Watts, Coja Wannis, Rajah Tilluckhund, have been demanded of their respective agents whose answers are not yet received

30 October

114 The heads of *expedition against the Dutch and indemnification* *Ibid* *received from them* have been adjusted and closed

115 Messrs Bellamy and Mapletoft stand indebted to the Company upon the General Books Current Rs 2,970-4-0 being the amount of an interest note paid them for which they nowhere appear credited. On this occasion the Sub Accomptant has remarked that a bond of the same principal and date remains upon balance under the head of Ramchund for payment whereof no application has ever been made although it was paid into the Company's cash before the troubles, and the strictest enquiry having been made after him and his family, neither of whom can be found, it is probable the said bond was the property of Messrs Bellamy and Mapletoft by endorsement. We request therefore your orders whether on such a supposition the said debt may be transferred to the head of Ramchund

116 In forming the adjustments with the books of the subordinates it appears that the sum of current rupees 10,91,989-1-6 has remained a part of the balance of Cossimbuzar factory since it was taken by Suraja Dowlah, instead of which it should have been wrote off to estimate of losses occasioned by the capture of Calcutta in 1756, and the factory have been credited for that amount but in regard to this we shall wait your directions

30 June  
10 October

117 The General Books of this Presidency you may be assured shall be regularly kept up and transmitted home annually accompanied with those of the subordinate settlements

118 The considerable receipts of cash from the revenues you now enjoy, have already enabled us to pay off many of your bonds and to resolve to

discharge the whole as they become due, except in some cases where the dependance and support of the parties is from the interest of small sums in your cash which we have permitted to remain till the first payments or until your pleasure can be known

119 The orders contained in your letter of the 19th February concerning the reduction of salaries in the different employes have been duly attended to and took place from the 1st of September last and we  
August shall be equally attentive to the instructions you have been pleased to give that none of your servants out of Council be permitted in future to hold two gratuity places at the same time

120 Although the greatest part of the writers remaining at the Presidency are accommodated with apartments in the New Fort it is utterly impossible for them to subsist on their bare pay we therefore hope you will permit the addition of rupees 40 to be continued.

121 We have in the 33rd paragraph mentioned the necessity we were under of recalling the servants from the *aurungs*. On examining the accounts of Mr Grueber who resided at the *aurung* of Buddaul we  
8 April 165 observed he had introduced an extraordinary charge of 9000 rupees for buildings he had erected there contrary to our leave and the instructions he had received on his appointment to that *aurung*. We therefore called upon him to refund the same which shall be regularly brought to your credit

122 The gentlemen at Cosmambur wrote to us in June last of their having with much difficulty examined and adjusted the accounts of Kistenendee who had been employed as *delall* on the  
9 June part of the Company at that factory but that by his villainy in keeping two or three sets of books at the same time their hopes of detecting the whole of his frauds had been frustrated they however discovered to the amount of rupees 10454-8 he had defrauded the Company of and immediately demanded of him to refund the same and dismissed him from his office but we ordered them to pursue their enquiries into his conduct and in case there should be a possibility of tracing any other frauds which they were to demand of him with interest on the whole and impose such a fine on him as they should think his villainy might deserve

123 On inspecting the account of the surgeons with the different brigades it appeared they had received 5 R per month more than was intended by the regulations last year by the Select Committee the  
10 August said excess arising from the surgeons having drawn the soldiers allowance of half *batta* which ought to have been brought to the credit of the Company when the allowance of 18 Rs to the surgeons per man was established. We therefore called upon them to refund the same which they all complied with after remonstrating except Mr Robert Hunter who for his non-compliance has been dismissed from your service

124 We have lately made an alteration in the regulations for victualling the sick in garrison and the field by obliging each soldier to pay two rupees  
September more in venereal cases than for common disorders. In the former case they pay five and in the latter three rupees and we hope this punishment will put them more upon their guard and in

some measure prevent the fatal effects of that disorder which proves the destruction of more than one half who are received into hospitals

125 We at the same time took under our consideration the very great inequality of advantages between the head surgeons and the other surgeons, and particularly the assistant surgeons whose pay and  
22 September allowances are scarce sufficient for them to subsist upon, and who by constant supercession have little or no prospect of bettering their conditions We therefore thought it equitable and resolved that the emoluments arising from the present stipulated allowances should be divided in the following manner To the head surgeon of each brigade  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd, to the 2nd surgeon  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd, and the remaining  $\frac{1}{3}$ rd to all the other surgeons and their assistants These regulations were ordered to take place from the 1st of November last and we beg leave to refer to the minutes of our Consultations for further particulars

126 Mr Alexander Grant having offered to contract for supplying the army with draft and carriage bullocks for the year 1767 on the same terms as are stipulated by the contract for the present year and being convinced they are as low as we can in reason expect them to be reduced to, we accepted his proposal and contracts have been executed accordingly

127 Taking lately into consideration the present state of the army and the great expense incurred by maintaining so large a force not only for the defence and security but likewise for collecting the revenues  
18 August of the kingdoms of Bengal and Bahar, we were of opinion that the Company should only stand charged for such a part of the forces as are necessary for the defence of their own fortifications and territorial possessions, and that the Government should be charged with all the rest One of the brigades consisting of a regiment of nine companies of Europeans and of six battalions of sepoys, we deemed sufficient for the protection of the Company's fortifications and districts of Calcutta, Burdwan, Midnapore and Chittagong, and the 1st brigade was accordingly appointed to that service, and if at any time this brigade should be under the necessity of taking the field, in such case *batta* and all extraordinary expences incurred on that account are to be charged to the Government

128 In consequence of this regulation we have ordered the disbursements of the army to be separated accordingly from the time the  
*Ibid* Company have been invested with the *dewanny* of these provinces and a transfer to be made of those charges on the General Books from the 1st September 1765 to the 30th of April last

129 The expences of the army whilst attending the King under the command of Colonel Smith are defrayed by His Majesty who has assigned over two lacks and ten thousand rupees for that purpose

130 That we may at all times be able to ascertain the expences incurred at this settlement and make the necessary observations on the cause of their increasing or diminishing, monthly abstracts are constantly delivered in by the President and entered on our Consultations the last day of the succeeding month At present we shall only add on this subject that we are sufficiently apprized of the heavy expences that must of necessity be incurred at this

settlement and that you may be assured we shall always be attentive to keep them within the most moderate bounds and to retrench every unnecessary charge and this has already been effected in many instances by the Committee of Inspection.

131 In the 67th paragraph of your General Letter dated the 24th December you are pleased to observe that the allowance of 6 rupees per day each for three Residents to expedite the letters between this Presidency and the coast of Coromandel is a heavy expense. Our communication with Madras by this means has already proved of great utility and even the preservation of the Company's settlements may depend upon it. The reason Company's servants are not stationed at these Residencies is that they have been hitherto employed on services where their attention is required either to conduct or improve themselves in the knowledge of the Company's affairs but when any of them can be spared your orders on this subject shall be duly attended to

132 The expenses incurred in our hospital on account of His Majesty's troops in India are preparing and shall be transmitted to you by the next conveyance.

133 We have appointed a committee to make a scrutiny into the over charges Mr Parker Hatley is supposed to have made whilst he acted as contractor to the army and into other matters of which you have required an explanation in your letter of last season the result of which we shall communicate in our next advices

134 Such other parts of your letters as have not been replied to in the course of this address have come under the consideration of the Select Committee from whom you will no doubt have the necessary advices relative thereto

135 The Select Committee in their proceedings laid before the Board the 22nd September communicated to us a proposal that had been made by the Right Honorable the President for restricting the future Governors of Fort William in points of trade and private interest in consideration of their receiving 1 per cent on the revenues collected in the provinces of Bengal Bahar and Orissa excepting the revenues of the Company's own lands at Calcutta Burdwan Midnapore and Chittagong This expedient was so evidently calculated for the benefit of your affairs which are now become so extensive in this part of India that it could not but meet with our unanimous approval in consequence of which the right hon'ble the President did on the 1st of October before the Mayor and Aldermen and in the most public manner take an oath and enter into a penalty bond which had been prepared on this occasion and are entered on our proceedings

#### *Eightiethly touching the charter*

136 Since our letter per *Pomshone* and *Admiral Watson* three vacancies have been occasioned in the Mayor's Court by the deaths of Mr John Browne and Mr Peter Callopine and the absence of Mr Archibald Keir for 12 months and a day and they have been filled up by the appointment of Messrs George Lear Joseph Jekyl and William Bolis

*Supplement*

137 As by the first advices received this season from Europe we did not find that any provision had been made for filling up the vacancy of chaplain at this settlement, Mr Parry our only chaplain labouring under a very bad state of health, we applied to the gentlemen at Madras to assist us if possible with one of the chaplains from that Presidency, but as we find by your commands of the 19th of February that Mr Blomer has been appointed hither in that station, we have advised the gentlemen at Madras that we should not be in need of the assistance we had requested

138 Mr Sumner and Mr Marriott have desired leave to resign your service and take their passage for England on board the *Cruttenden*

139 Mr William Bolts and Mr Gideon Johnstone have also at their several requests been permitted to resign the service

140 We acquainted you in our letter of the 24th March last of our having demanded of Mr Marriott, payment of the money for which he had rented the mint at Benares of the King, he has since addressed a letter to us on that subject requesting that the terms of His Majesty's *sunnud* might be reconsidered, as it did not appear to him that either the mint or *cutwally* were given up to the Company

141 On reference to the *sunnud* in consequence of Mr Marriott's request, a copy whereof is entered on the proceedings of the Separate Department the 6th December 1764, as also to the several letters and papers that passed on that occasion, we remained of our former opinion that the mint and *cutwally* are comprehended in it and therefore again demanded of Mr Marriott the amount of what he had paid to the King for farming the mint at Banaras

142 Upon this occasion Mr Marriott has requested as Major Munro who is now in England had so principal a share with him in the transaction of delivering up the mint and *cutwally* at Banaras to His Majesty and he is himself going home in the *Cruttenden* that this affair may be deferred to your decision, to which he will abide To this we have assented, and in the meantime have received from him in deposit the receipts of His Majesty's *mutseddie* for the money Mr Marriott paid to the King for the rent of the mint

143 The enquiries you have been pleased to make in your letter of the 26th April 1765 concerning the sum stipulated to be given by the late Nabob Meer Jaffier Ali Cawn for restitution of private losses, will be replied to by the Select Committee It remains only with us to inform you that the sum of current rupees 41,46,018-10-9½ has been paid in for that purpose which has answered the claims that had been established before the receipt of your letter as far as the proportion of 12 annas or ¾th On receipt of your orders we stopped further payment and the claimants gave in a remonstrance upon that occasion, a copy of which makes a number in the packet We have acquainted them in answer that the remaining four annas or ¼th cannot be issued and distributed until your further pleasure is known, and have only further to observe that it is to be supposed the utmost care has been taken in examining the claims before they were established by your President and Council as a Committee of Restitution We are sorry their proceedings have



been hitherto neglected to be regularly transmitted to you they now come a number in the book packet accompanied with an abstract shewing the amount of each claim to this time established and the proportion of  $\frac{3}{4}$ th thereof which had been paid at the time we received your orders as we have before mentioned.

144 Lord Clive represented to us that on examining the account of his *jaghier* he observed that deductions had been made by the Company for charges of collection which he apprehended was contrary to the tenor of his agreement with them dated the 16th May 1764 wherein it is expressly stipulated that he is to receive annually the nett sum of 2,27,958 *sicca* rupees in quarterly payments and submitted to our determination whether the amount of such charge should not have been brought to his credit

145 On reference to the said agreement it appeared that Lord Clive is to receive annually a certain determined sum and as this is also the established custom of the country where every one receives the full amount of his *jaghier* without any charges or deductions whatever we were of opinion that Lord Clive was entitled to receive his in the same manner and his account has been adjusted accordingly

146 We have the pleasure to acquaint you that the *Anson* and *Pigot* are safely arrived here. By the latest advices from Madras the *Devonshire* was not arrived and is probably gone on to Bombay for fear of venturing on the Coast so late in the season

147 It is with much concern we acquaint you that Lord Clive has for some time past been too much indisposed to attend to public business. He is now at Barrasutt where we hope a change of air will effect his speedy recovery

148 The amount of this *hup's* invoice is C. R. 10500 400

149 A small quantity of diamonds has been registered by this ship amounting to current rupees 38,805 15 9

150 The balance this day remaining in your treasury is current rupees 44 11,028 7 9 and in your cash chest current rupees 8 217 2

We are

Hon<sup>ble</sup> Sirs

Your faithful and obedient servant

H Verelst / John Carnac / Randf  
Marriott / H Watts / Claud Russell /  
W Aldersey / Thos Kelsall / Chas  
Rogers [17over]

For William  
the 28th November 1766  
[Original per Cruttenden  
Duplicate per Britannia]



<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£</i>	<i>Sig</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>C.</i>	<i>As</i>
1 The Right Hon <sup>ble</sup> Lord Clive in full re- turn for coral beads	1 704	17 4	Josh Solomon Henry and Peters Muilman and Son and Joseph Solomon	14,613-	2 6
1 Page Keble	500-	0- 0	Roger Hanmer	4,285-	11 6
1 W B Sumner	1,000-	0- 0	Messrs Castells & Wheatly	8,571	7 0
1 James Nowland	500-	0 0	Peter Daniel	4 285-	11 6
1 Robert Campbell	500-	0 0	Himself	4,285-	11 6
1 Randolph Marriott	1,000-	0- 0	Himself	8,571	7 0
1 Harry Verclst	1,000-	0- 0	Himself	8,571	7 0
1 John White	500-	0 0	Himself	4 285-	11 6
1 Thomas Hewitt	500	0- 0	Himself	4,285-	11 6
1 Messrs Vansittart and Plowman in full re- turn for 1 chest of coral beads marked YES No 1 imported per ship <i>Lord Clive</i> 1763	257	8- 0	Abraham Levy Sonsino	2,206-	4 6
1 Do in full return for 1 chest of coral beads marked IS No 1 imported per ship <i>F v 1763</i>	82	17 4	Judah Supino	710	4 6
1 William Bolts	500	0- 0	John Misenor	4,285-	11 6
1 Joseph Jekyll	500-	0- 0	Lias Brownsword J Langmore & T Jekyll	4,285-	11 6
1 Thomas Price	200-	0 0	James Potter	1 714	4 6
1 The Rt Hon <sup>ble</sup> Lord Clive	2,000-	0 0	Himself	17 142	14 6
1 General Carnac	1,000-	0 0	Himself	8,571	7 0
1 Thomas Woodward	500-	0- 0	Himself	4,285	11 6
1 John Fortnom	500-	0 0	Himself	4,285-	11 6
1 Claud Russell	1,000-	0 0	Himself	8,571	7 0
1 John Read	250-	0- 0	Himself	2 142	13- 9
1 John Read	250-	0- 0	Himself	2 142	13- 9
1 Col Alexr Champion	500-	0- 0	Himself	4,285	11 6
1 Bryan Scotney	500-	0 0	Himself	4,285	11 6
1 James Ellis	500	0- 0	Himself	4,285	11 6
1 Isaac Sage	500	0 0	Himself	4,285-	11 6
1 George Williamson	500	0- 0	Ann Forter	4,285-	11 6
1 Russell Skinner	500-	0 0	Joseph Skinner	4,285	11 6
1 Doctt Mary Mapletoft	300	0 0	Joao Zep H lwell	2,571	6- 9
1 Doctt Mary Bodly	200	0 0	Mary Bodly	1 714	4 6

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£ Stg</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>CRs</i>
1 Do do Mary Bradly	100- 0- 0	Mary Bradly	857- 2- 3
1 Philip Milner Dacies	500- 0- 0	Mary Say	4,285-11- 6
1 Francis Russell .	500- 0- 0	William Russell	4,285-11- 6
1 Ralph Windwood	500- 0- 0	Himself	4,285-11- 6
1 Mary Hunt	100- 0- 0	Charles Raymond	857- 2- 3
1 John Graham	500- 0- 0	Himself	4,285-11- 6
1 John Marriott	500- 0- 0	Himself	4,285-11- 6
1 Francis Sykes	1,000- 0- 0	R Nettleton, R Beecher and Smith and W Sykes .	8,571- 7- 0
1 H Verebst acct Saml Middleton	1,000- 0- 0	Messrs Nettleton, Beecher and Rakes	8,571- 7- 0
1 Do acct Walter Wilkins	500- 0- 0	Messrs Beecher & Rakes	4,285-11- 6
1 John Knott	500- 0- 0	Himself	4,285-11- 6
1 Harry Verebst acct Thos Boddam	244- 8- 6	Thomas Boddam	2,095- 1- 9
1 Do acct Geo Gray Senr	290- 4- 4	Geo Gray Senr	2,487- 9- 0
1 Do acct Elizabeth Beard	174-17- 0	Elizabeth Beard	1,499- 2- 0
1 Do for Ried Beecher acct Eliz Massey	89-16- 1	Elizabeth Massey	941- 3- 0
1 John Holme	103-12- 0	Thomas Holme	888- 0- 0
1 John Holme	160- 0- 0	Thomas Holme	1,371-[10]-9
1 Charles Floyer	1,000- 0- 0	Messrs Jos Dickenson[&] Wm Chas Turner	8,571- 7- 0
1 Samuel Griffith	50- 0- 0	Captain Richard Crab	428- 9- 3
1 Wm Aldersey	1,000- 0- 0	Himself	8,571- 7- 0
1 John Bathoe	240- 0- 0	Petr Michell and Wm Bathoe	2,057- 2- 3
1 John Davidson	500- 0- 0	Himself	4,285-11- 6
1 Jno Holme acct Thos Forbes Junr	500- 0- 0	Thomas Forbes Senr	4,285-11- 6
1 Johanna Ross	500- 0- 0	Herself	4,285-11- 6
1 Theodora Anthonia Bodle	500- 0- 0	Herself	4,285-11- 6
1 W B Sumner acct Catherine Geo and Wm Sumner	4,798- 5- 7	W B Sumner	41,128- 1- 9
1 W B Sumner	5,186-13- 4	Himself	44,457- 2- 3
1 W B Sumner	1,615- 1- 1	Himself	13,843- 5- 0
1 Do acct Wm Shrinc	1,000- 0- 0	Wm Shrinc	8,571- 7- 0
1 Messrs Campbell acct Thos Dugald Campbell	500- 0- 0	Thomas Rous	4,285- 1- 6

<i>To whom granted</i>	<i>£ Stg</i>	<i>To whom payable</i>	<i>C.Rs</i>
1 George Scott	500- 0- 0	Robt. Bogle and Wm Scott	4,285-11 6
1 Executrix of Peter Gallopine	500- 0 0	Philadelphia Gallopine	4 285-11 6
1 John Orfeus Yates	500- 0 0	Himself	4,285-11 6
1 Thomas Pearson	500- 0- 0	Himself	4,285-11 6
1 Scipio Carnic	500- 0 0	Geo Clive and Jno Walsh	4,285-11 6
1 William Virtue	500 0- 0	Himself	4 285-11 6
<hr/>			
[91] Sett.	£ Stg 57,595-14 4	C. Rupees	4,93,677 15- 0

We have likewise granted certificates for the following [sums paid] into your treasury here for which credit is given in your books.

We are  
Honorable Sirs

Fort William  
the 28th November 1766

Your faithful and obedient servants.

## 34

## LITTLE DAILED 5 DECEMBER 1766

*Proceedings of the Committee of Institution—further regulation of inland trade in salt betel nut and tobacco and checks on private trade—recall of European servants from nurangs—Governor granted commission on revenues in lieu of profits from private trade and other perquisites—refund of commissions and allowances by some officers—revenue of Burdwan and Midnapore provinces—supply of money to China market—request for adequate European infantry for the defence of English possessions in India—measures to check possible Maratha move to support Shah Alam—right of the Company to levy taxes on inhabitants for maintaining security—Humboldt's appointment on the Board*

**T**O the Honble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honble United Company of Merchants of England trading to the East Indies.

Honble Sirs

1 In the letter which we had the honor to address to you by the *Lord Camden* we described every material occurrence that passed at this Presidency from the departure of the *Ponsborne* to the date of the above dispatch. We now transmit in the packet a duplicate of that letter and also the proceedings of the Select Committee to which we beg leave to refer for a more particular detail of facts.

2 The definitions recorded on the face of our proceedings respecting restitution to the merchant and distribution to the army and navy are then

selves so explicit and clear as to render any further lights to guide your judgement almost unnecessary. The means exerted to obtain those large disbursements from the Nabob's treasury are fully declared upon oath by the principal agents on either side. A committee expressly appointed for examining the several claims of the sufferers hath already passed their accounts. We should therefore apprehend that the question now to be determined is not whether the losses of individuals have been fairly stated, but whether the Nabob Meer Jaffier could justly be made accountable for losses consequent on a war of which he was not the author and also whether you ought to be considered as bound in honor to discharge such debts of his Excellency as he could never willingly be brought to acknowledge?

These are points which we submit to your consideration while we content ourselves with observing that whatever opinion we may entertain of the decrees of the Committee of Restitution, it would at this distance of time be impossible to enter upon a satisfactory review of their proceedings, after so many of the parties chiefly concerned are gone home or dead.

Such a scrutiny would in the present circumstances be attended with many difficulties: it would be productive of injustice and bear hard upon the fortunes of such individuals as had adjusted their claims with scrupulous nicety to the amount of their losses. At all events it would furnish a topic for clamour and a handle for misconstruction, to have those accounts now disputed which were passed by your Governor and Council acting here as your representatives after three fourths of the whole had been actually discharged.

3 With respect to his Excellency's grant of a donation to Mr Tinker and the squadron under his command, it rests entirely with you to determine from the evidences set forth, whether the services performed by His Majesty's ships of war in Bengal, merit a reward so disproportionate to the then exhausted condition of the Nabob's treasury. A court of equity will ascertain the distinctions to be made betwixt a free gift flowing from a grateful sense of obligations received, and a grant obtained by the unwarrantable methods described in the depositions of the witnesses examined on this occasion.

4 As soon as we had closed the enquiry into restitution and donations the Committee took into consideration the several other orders issued by your Honorable Board during the course of the last season. Your remarks on the inland trade were so peculiarly striking and so perfectly agreeable to our own sentiments respecting that perpetual source of oppression and complaint, that we determined immediately to apply the most efficacious remedies to a disease which must in time have subverted the constitution and endangered the being of the East India Company. By the *Admiral Stevens* you were informed of the plan we had concerted for carrying on the trade in salt, tobacco and betlenut for the benefit of the Company and their servants, without injury to the Nabob, and without molestation or oppression of the natives, it was the best and most equitable system we could then devise, yet experience hath shewn the necessity of laying the trade under farther restrictions, the reasons for which together with the particular mode of conducting this valuable branch of commerce in future are fully explained in Lord Clive's minute entered on our proceedings. In those emendations of the plan on which the Society of Trade was founded, all due regard has been paid to the sovereign prerogative of the Company acting as collectors for the King and more especially to the

scrupulous distribution of natural right to the native inhabitants whence we flatter ourselves that the inland trade will henceforward prove to you a commodious fund for rewarding the different degrees of merit amongst your servants and a fruitful source of encouragement to the industry of the country people who are now without distinction admitted to a participation of its benefits upon the most reasonable and moderate terms

5 To the regulations formed for conducting the business of the Society of Trade we have added a total prohibition of another species of inland traffic in a variety of articles usually transported from one district of the interior country to another whereby an extensive field was open for the abuse of power and the most notorious acts of fraud and injustice. All Europeans in your service or under your protection are now indiscriminately confined to trade in certain articles of import and export. The returns are to be made from the places where the goods were sold directly to the presidency or to the subordinate factory from whence they were dispatched and no circular traffic by way of barter or otherwise is in future to be allowed from one *auring* to another on pain of confiscation of the goods and loss of your service and protection.

6 The complaints which we received of repeated losses sustained by the revenue and of violences offered to the country people by the *gomastahs* or black agents employed by your servants and screened from justice by their influence afforded us an opportunity of imposing farther restrictions upon the inland trade by obliging those *gomastahs* to register their licences at the head court of the district where they reside a monthly return of which is to be made to the ministers and the Resident at the Durbar and to be compared by them with the list of licences sent from hence by the Custom Master. Thus with other limitations specified in our proceedings will we doubt not conduce greatly to the peace and good order of the country

7 We have also recalled from the *auring*s all your servants who were sent to superintend the investments in cloth being well assured that those branches of the Company's business may as conveniently be carried on without their assistance and that the residence of young gentlemen at places remote from the inspection of their superiors hath furnished the means of assuming to themselves an authority prejudicial to the people detrimental to the revenues and productive of disputes with the other European companies with whom it is our inclination to live in the most amicable manner

8 Further to enforce the spirit of your instructions contained in paragraph 10 11 and 12 of your Separate Letter under date the 24th December 1765 we deliberated on the properest measures for restraining that pernicious influence which enables a commercial governor of this settlement in a manner to engross in his own hands the whole trade of this country. The President's minute entered in our proceedings the 19th September very clearly and forcibly expresses the many salutary effects that must arise to the Company and the public from placing the Governor in so affluent and respectable a situation that his attention shall no longer be distracted with the perplexing cares of an extensive trade nor diverted from the duty of his station by too close an application to ways and means of promoting his own private interest. He is now to renounce all concern in every branch of commerce. By a solemn oath and penalty of £150000 executed in presence of the Mayor Court the Com-

pany's servants, and the other inhabitants of the Presidency, he is restricted from every possible method of accumulating wealth and even from lending out money at more than the common rate of interest or otherwise enlarging his fortune except by the regular and stated appointments of his office. We have not only bound him down by the strongest ties of law, of honor and of conscience, but we have endeavoured to remove every temptation to exceed the limits prescribed by rendering the emoluments of his appointment suitable to the rank he holds in the settlement, the dignity he must necessarily maintain in the eyes of the natives and the prospect of independence which he ought to enjoy at the close of a long course of faithful service.

For these purposes we have assigned to your Governor a commission of  $1\frac{1}{8}$ th upon all the revenues of which the Company are collectors for the King, for the consulage on coral, the duties on coinage, and such other emoluments and perquisites as the Court of Directors have usually annexed to his station and office. As the President's own words are the most expressive of the meaning of the Committee, we beg leave to quote the following paragraph of his Lordship's minute, in which he enumerates the happy consequences that must result from divesting the President of all other cares than those of his station.

"Although by these means a governor will not be able to amass a million and a half, or half a million in the space of two or three years, yet he will acquire a very handsome independency and be in that very situation which a man of nice honor and true zeal for the service, would wish to possess. Thus situated he may defy all opposition in Council, he will have nothing to ask, nothing to propose, but what he means for the advantage of his employers. He may defy the law because there can be no foundation for a bill of discovery and he may defy the obloquy of the world, because there can be nothing censurable in his conduct. In short if stability can be insured to such a government as this where riches have been acquired in abundance, in a short space of time by all ways and means, and by men with or without capacities, it must be effected by a governor thus restricted."

We are to observe that our President Lord Clive, has himself set the first example of that moderation which he requires in future governors of this settlement, his Lordship having on the 1st day of October taken the restrictive oath and executed the penalty bond in the manner prescribed.

9 As we have never presumed to deviate from your express orders, excepting when circumstances were so altered as would render our obedience criminal, we entered with great reluctance upon the execution of your instructions contained in the General Letter of the 24th December 1765 and 13th February 1766.

Mr Hugh Watts was pursuant to those orders, called upon to refund the amount of commission he had drawn, at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  per cent upon the revenues of Midnapore but as this commission had first been established by a Committee of Lands, and was afterwards confirmed by your President and Council, we accepted in lieu of money of his bond made payable in case you should think proper to repeat your injunctions, after we had represented the circumstances of the affair.



10 In the same manner we called upon Messrs Marriott Lawrell Goodwin and Graham to refund the whole amount of the monthly allowance received from the Rajah during their residence in Burdwan Yet in favor of these gentlemen it must be observed that the above allowance was constantly inserted in the monthly cash account transmitted to the Presidency whence it became an absolute act of the Board for which your servants at Burdwan are no longer responsible.

We likewise imagine that the commission drawn upon the revenues of Midnapore as well as the allowance granted by the Burdwan Rajah must have been known from the General Books for more than a twelve month before your orders for refunding were issued These emoluments were therefore if not absolutely confirmed yet tacitly allowed by the Court of Directors themselves The silence of your Honorable Board and of the Governor and Council upon a point so immediately striking may very naturally be construed into a sufficient sanction for their conduct and the alternative either to refund sums of money actually expended in supporting the unavoidable charges of their stations, or of losing the benefits of your service must therefore be regarded as a very peculiar hardship upon those gentlemen

11 For these reasons we also accepted bonds for restitution of the Rajah's allowance in the same terms as that from Mr Watts, and it is our request that you will please to revoke those orders which must prove so injurious to the fortunes of your junior servants acting under the immediate orders and inspection of the Board

The bonds are as follows

Mr Watts	Rs 11 000
" James Lawrell	32,000
" Henry Goodwin	24,000
John Graham	7 400

75,222 [sic]

12 Mr Marriott intending to resign the service has intimated in reply to our demand that he is ready to answer any legal call upon his fortune in the courts of justice in England

13 Your orders for refunding the presents received by the gentlemen who composed the council and deputation at the accession of the Nabob Nudjum ul Dowla were duly conveyed to Messrs Playdell and Middleton the only remaining members of the Board who acted upon that occasion The former has applied to the Board for permission to resign the service and the latter has acquainted the President of his intention to return this season to England so that enforcing your instructions any further appears unnecessary

14 In consequence of your several remarks on the management revenues and accounts of Burdwan province in the General Letter the 24th December we directed Mr Verelst the Supervisor to draw out an exact statement of the revenues and an explicit answer to the difficulties you have pointed out in the former statement transmitted to England That gentleman has accordingly with great pains and attention drawn out a very full account of the receipt and disbursement of that province for the last year He hath

likewise deduced from the best authorities he could procure, a minute detail in the same form of all the receipts and disbursements of money from the period when that province was first assigned over to the Company, and these accounts he has accompanied with a letter addressed to the Select Committee, which we hope will explain every inconsistency, account for every deficiency, and solve every material difficulty represented by your hon'ble Board

15 From the Resident at Midnapore's letter to the Supravisor and the accompanying accounts you will perceive the great increase of the revenues of that province since Mr Verelst's appointment. You will also observe from the resolutions of the Committee when Mr Graham's letter was under consideration, the method in which we propose conducting the business of that province and Jellasure in future, in order the Company may receive the full value of the lands without oppressing the zemindars or distressing the landholders, whose ease and happiness must ever be inseparable from the true interest of their masters

16 The King's revenues of which we are now the collectors, we have reason to believe will fall very little short of the sums specified in our letter by the *Lord Camden*. In the list packet we transmit general statements for the present year of the revenues of Bengal and Bahar, the large encrease upon which must in great measure be ascribed to Mr Sykes' assiduity and to Mahomed Reza Cawn's profound knowledge in the business of the finances. Without this diligence and skill in the executive officers, all the attention of the Committee to support the influence of the Government, to enforce the obedience of the zemindars, and to prevent frauds, embezzlement and depredations committed on the revenue would fail to produce the required effect

17 The large investments which we are enabled now to send home by means of the supplies we remit to China, and the cargoes from hence render the revenues of this country an object of the utmost importance not only to the Company but to the British nation. As these are the only means we can at present devise whereby you can enjoy the full fruits of His Majesty's royal grant of the *dewanny*, we shall continue to exert our utmost endeavours to extend the investment every year and we propose continuing to supply the China market with money until your prohibition to the contrary shall arrive or advice from the supra cargoes that they have a superfluity in their hands. Inconveniences will undoubtedly attend this annual exportation of treasure but when we reflect on the great addition already made to the current specie of the country by the gold coinage and likewise that even should your sales fall, yet will every encrease of your investment prove so much actual money remitted to your coffers, we are inclined to believe this the most eligible system that can be pursued at present. We are farther to consider that whilst foreign nations are providing their investments with money borrowed at a high premium, you are only sending home in goods the surplus of an immense revenue which may truly be regarded as so much clear gain to the Company and to the nation

18 But this great and national object is not to be secured and perpetuated without your unremitting attention to our military establishment, and maintaining a force proportioned to the risk incurred by the extension of your influence and possessions. The dismissal of the Nabob's useless military

rabble and of those troops kept up by the rajahs and *phougedars* in their several districts for the purpose of enforcing the collections hath obliged us to raise eight battalions of independent *sepoys* so that notwithstanding the great number of recruits sent out this year from England notwithstanding the liberal supply of troops granted by your Presidency at Fort St. George so general was the mortality on board the transports so great the loss from the *Falmouth's* misfortune and so fatal the effects of the late unhealthy season that we cannot avoid being alarmed at the extraordinary disproportion of numbers between your European and black infantry. The very signal instance of fidelity and attachment exhibited by the *sepoys* during the late mutiny of the officers might indeed be sufficient to quiet our apprehensions and remove all suspicion of their conduct if experience [of] the preceding year of their dangerous insolence and turbulent spirit had not evinced the necessity of keeping the black troops in awe and subjection.

19 We therefore most earnestly request that you will try every possible means to complete the European infantry to the number specified in our address by the *Admiral Stetens* and that effectual measures may be taken to prevent crowded ships to dispatch your recruits at an early season and to guard against the infamous practices of owners husbands and officers of ships whereby the lives are sacrificed of hundreds of men whose services would be valuable to the nation and altogether invaluable to the Company.

20 In the letters from the Public Department your Council have frequently expressed their wishes that you would comply with the Military Storekeeper's indents for hats and shoes. We now make it the request of the Committee that the brigades may in future be fully supplied with articles so essential to a soldier's cloathing and which are not to be procured here in a sufficient quantity at any price.

21 At the same time we beg leave once more to repeat the necessity of your pursuing the most vigorous measures to prevent the exportation of fire arm and amunition to any part of India. It is not sufficient that we guard against this illicit and perhaps fatal trade at your Presidencies of Fort St. George and Fort William unless the same care be taken at Bombay, Bencoolen and your factories on the Malabar Coast since the arms imported at those places are soon conveyed in country vessels and other means to the most remote parts of Indostan.

22 The accompanying duplicate of our letter by the *Lord Camden* will advise you of the prospect we then enjoyed of uninterrupted peace and tranquillity in Bengal. Nor is this prospect more visionary and remote notwithstanding the King has plied every engine of state artifice and deceit to disturb the repose of the empire by arming for the purposes of his wild ambition a power who in a short time would shake the foundation of his throne and deprive him of that independent and comfortable revenue which he now possesses for the support of his dignity. Disappointed in the King's promises of a distance from us the *Mahrattas* have ever since remained seemingly irresolute how they shall act at some distance from the frontier of the *Korah* province which was ceded to His Majesty last year by treaty. They have not attempted to molest the King, our ally *Soujah Dowlah* or us yet for the greater security we have directed the 2nd and 3rd Brigades to march toward

the Caramnassa to support Sujah Dowlah if he should require our assistance and to confirm that terror of our arms with which the Mahiattas seem already to be so strongly impressed. This motion we expect will produce the full effect, without striking a blow.

23 We learn with great satisfaction by the latest advices from the Coast that all differences with Nizam Ali are likely to be removed, should this desirable event take place, we hope to concert a plan of operations with the Presidencies of Madras and Bombay, which will effectually prevent our being molested in future by the Mahrattas, by obliging them to confine their whole attention to the preservation of what they now possess. At present they are the only power who can excite disturbances in Bengal, nor have we anything further than a mere temporary interruption to our collections to apprehend even from them, since with our well disciplined numerous army, we may bid defiance to the most powerful force of the country that can be assembled in the field.

24 Having maturely considered your orders conveyed in paragraph 39 of your General Letter by the *Lord Camden*, we entirely agree in opinion that the Government hath undoubted right to oblige the inhabitants to contribute their proportion of the expences necessary to the security of the settlement, but as not only the propriety of such an assessment but even our power of levying taxes hath been questioned, and this proposal already rejected in the Consultations of the Board in the year 1762, we choose to avoid renewing it at a juncture when the affluence of the Company renders it unnecessary and when such an exertion of authority might possibly revive discontent and rekindle those sparks of sedition which have been so recently suppressed. To admit of a certainty, they are thoroughly extinguished, however, lest it should hereafter be thought expedient to assess the inhabitants for the purpose mentioned or for any other measure of the Government, we could wish to recommend that you would please to consult the learned in the law, how far the authority of your Governor and Council acting here as your representatives, extends over the property of the inhabitants living under their protection.

25 You will observe from our proceedings that Mr Rumbold's appointment to a seat at the Board with the standing he held at your Presidency of Fort St George was considered by Messrs Aldersey, Kelsall and Floyer as an injury to themselves and a supercession which their conduct at the Board no way justified. At the same time we confess the merit of these gentlemen, we must observe that the injury would have been still greater to Mr Rumbold had he been denied that rank in Council to which he was entitled by faithful services. Our objection was not to him, but to a selection from this establishment which we conceived would serve only to aggravate the general discontent and we therefore gave him assurances at the time that his supercession would be temporary. With the Committee's declaration that such assurances had been given, we are of opinion the Madras gentlemen might have remained satisfied, until the sentiments of the Court of Directors could be received, since it is evident we were reduced by necessity to this measure without intention of injuring or in any degree superceding Mr Rumbold, whose services to the Company both in a civil and military capacity so deservedly entitle him to an exemption from every indignity.

26 The Public Department will advise you of Mr Sumner's resignation and of his having taken his passage on this ship. We shall not proceed to fill up the vacancy his departure has occasioned in the Committee until his Lordship is able to attend to business.

We have the honor to be

Hon'ble Sirs,

Your most faithful humble servants

(Signed) Clive / H. Verelst / John  
Carnac

Fort William

the 5th December 1766

### Supplement

27 We had just closed the foregoing letter when we were favoured with your advices by the Mercury packet which imparted at Vizagapatam the 21st day of November last from whence her dispatches were conveyed to us overland.

28 Your Select Committee now receive with the most grateful acknowledgements those testimonies of general approbation you are pleased to bestow on their proceedings and that extension of their powers which shall never be exercised but with a view of promoting the honor and interest of their employers.

29 Our President Lord Clive being at present indisposed we think it advisable to postpone the consideration of your orders until his Lordship shall be able to attend our meetings which can be productive of no inconvenience as another ship will proceed directly for Europe very soon after the *Cuttenden*.

Fort William

the 9th December 1766

(Signed) Clive / H. Verelst / John  
Carnac

### LETTER DATED 12 DECEMBER 1766

*Clive declines due to reasons of health to continue another year in India—service of affairs in Bengal—achievements of the Committee of Inspection—restoration of discipline among civil and military servants—moderation of the English in dealing with Indian powers.*

TO the Hon'ble the Court of Directors &c &c

Gentlemen

I have had the honor to receive your letter of the 2nd and 17th of May earnestly requesting my continuance in the Government another year. My family concerns and parliamentary interests important as they are would

not make me hesitate to comply with a request which does me so much honor, if the situation of your affairs demanded my longer service or if the reasons which suggested to you the desire of my remaining here were actually now existing. The very weak condition, however, to which a severe bilious disorder has reduced me requires my immediate return to Europe. It is now a month since I have been in so deplorable a state of health, as to be wholly unable to attend to business and it is past a doubt that I cannot survive the malignity of this climate another year. Thus useless as I am become to the Company and without the least prospect of recovery in Bengal, I cannot doubt you will concur with me in the opinion of the absolute necessity of returning to my native country.

2 The faithful view which I will now lay before you of the situation of your affairs, will moreover convince you that the consequences of which you are apprehensive after my departure, cannot in all human probability happen, and that every material object of my expedition is fully accomplished.

3 Agreeably to my advices of the 1st February and 20th of March, a Committee of Inspection has been appointed for examining into the state of every department, and for the establishing the necessary rules and orders for a general reformation. This Committee hath fully answered my intention. Your servants, civil and military, are no longer at a loss for an exact definition of their respective duties. The new regulations are now in force, and in a few weeks will be firmly established.

4 The licentious spirit of opposition and extravagancy, so justly complained of in your civil servants, is now entirely subdued. The gentlemen are reduced to act, and likewise to think reasonably. Perfect harmony now reigns throughout the settlement, and all childish resentments are at an end. Nothing remains to be apprehended but what may result from the extreme youth of the majority of your servants, and this might have been effectually obviated before my departure had sufficient power been vested in the Select Committee or in me to appoint some of the most able or disinterested of the free merchants of this establishment and to require the assistance of four or five other gentlemen from Madras.

5 We have not only overcome the most formidable and dangerous mutiny that ever happened in this or any other country but by example made of the ringleaders and more especially by obliging every officer in your army to execute a contract for three years service, have given a stability and security to your military establishment which it never had before. It is upon the best founded confidence I assert, the East India Company was never so truly secure as at present, against military ambition and encroachment, never before have discipline, good order and subordination been so fully confirmed, and I am persuaded that a relaxation of your orders at home and a new degeneracy of your Governor and Council abroad are the only probable, I might almost say, possible evils that can shake the prosperity of your affairs in Bengal.

6 Our generosity of conduct in restoring to Suja Dowlah all his dominions after he had been reduced by conquest to the very lowest ebb of fortune, the regard we have manifested to the King's support and dignity, by paying

him regularly that tribute which was never paid to former Moguls excepting in their plenitude of power and authority our resolving to pay the Maharrattas their *chout* these instances of our moderation and disinterestedness added to the uninterrupted success of our arms have set our equity and courage in so fair a point of view that all the neighbouring powers solicit our friendship and alliance Upon us they depend for protection against any disturbers of the peace of the country and at the same time are under no apprehensions from our bravery because they are fully convinced that our ambition extends not beyond the maintenance of our present possessions and that one of our first principles of government is justice.

7 This being the true state of affairs to what purpose should I continue longer in a climate which would certainly prove fatal to me? At the end of another and another year I could not leave your concerns in better hands nor on a more prosperous footing than I do now I shall leave in the chair the man I always wished to be my successor a man whose inflexible integrity and steadiness are to be securely relied on and I will use my utmost endeavors to leave with him a well chosen Committee and to inspire into all the members of the Council my ideas and zeal for the service. If the principles of all your servants be not such as we wish they were the service must suffer nor will it be in my power to apply a remedy any farther than by offering you my advice at home Every thing has been already done here that could be effected by me the full completion of the great and salutary work of reformation must be performed by yourselves And you may be assured I shall at all times be equally ready in England as in India to give every instance of my zeal for the Company's interest in gratitude to a service from whence I derive my fortune and my honors

I have the honor to be with the greatest respect  
Gentlemen

Your most obedient and  
most humble servant.  
(Signed) Clive.

Calcutta  
the 17th December 1766

## LETTER DATED 13 DECEMBER 1766

### *Shipping news*

TO the Honble the Court of Directors for affairs of the Honble the United Company of Merchant of England trading to the East Indies

Honorable Sirs

I Since closing our general advices by this ship we have the pleasure to acknowledge the receipt of your command dated the 17 May by the *Mercury* now which arrived at Vizagapatam the 21st of last month from whence the packet was immediately dispatched to us overland and the vessel was to

remain there a few days only to clean and take in the necessary refreshments before she prosecuted her voyage against the north east monsoon

2 We are in consequence of your information taking the necessary measures for discovering whether any and what illicit trade has been received on board the *Pigot*. You may be assured that your orders shall be strictly enforced, and that we shall not fail to communicate to you the result of our enquiries by the very first opportunity

3 By advices from Fort Marlborough dated the 27th of July we learn that the *Grosvenor* arrived there from Canton the 30th of March, and was dispatched for England the 19th of April, also that the *Speke* imported there the 30th of June, and received her dispatches for China the 5th July. They also mention the arrival of the *Havannah* and *Hawke* from England who met near the Straits of Sunda with the *Duke of Cumberland*, *Plassey*, *Prince of Wales* and *Deptford*

4 The gentlemen at that Presidency also inform us that the *Royal George* Captain Skottow returned thither from Benja the 15th July, not meeting with any success in the business he was sent upon, that she was to be dispatched in September for Bombay and in her way to call at Batavia in order to assist if necessary in transporting to the Malabar Coast the detachment of sepoys arrived there from Solo upon the *Patty*, Captain Dodwell, who had been purposely dispatched by the gentlemen at Madras last year, and losing his passage in his return, had put in at Batavia in a bad condition

5 The President and Council at Madras write us under date the 13th October that the monsoon being set in they had determined to order the *Camden* to Merguy to avoid the month of November and to return to the Coast early in December to be dispatched for Europe

6 We have the satisfaction to inform you that since closing our former dispatches by this ship, Lord Clive is considerably mended in his health

We are  
Honorable Sirs

Your faithful humble servants,

(Signed) H Verelst / John Carnac /  
Claud Russell / H Watts / W  
Aldersey / Thos Kelsall / Chas Floyer

Fort William,  
13th December 1766  
[Original per *Cruttenden*  
Duplicate per *Britannia*]





## NOTES



# NOTES

## LETTERS FROM COURT

### No. 1—8 February 1764

1 **Major John Carnac** (p 3)—He, along with three other members of the Fort William Board, *viz* Peter Amyatt, John Johnstone and William Hay, was dismissed in February 1764 on account of insubordinate behaviour while Vansittart was negotiating an agreement with Mir Qasim on private trade. The orders for his dismissal were, however, revoked a couple of months later in consideration of 'his gallant behaviour and good services' in the engagement with Mir Qasim.

2 **Mirza Doud** (p 3)—Mirza Daud was the son-in-law of Miran (Mir Jafar's son). He was imprisoned by Mir Qasim but in 1762 he escaped and Mr Batson, Chief of Cossimbazar, was blamed for allowing his servant to give shelter to him. Batson denied the charge and declared that Mir Qasim's officials were free to seize the Mirza. Imperial Record Department, *Calendar of Persian Correspondence*, Vol I, pp 167-9.

3 **inland private trade** (p 4)—The imperial *farman* of 1717 covered the E I Company's import and export trade only. The servants of the Company, however, arrogated to themselves the right to duty-free inland trade as well. After 1757 they boldly traded not only in goods designed for exportation but also in other articles such as salt, betel-nut and tobacco.

4 **dusticks** (p 7)—*Dastaks* or passports were issued by the Governor of Fort William or the chiefs of English factories, exempting the goods of the Company or of their servants from payment of duties.

5 **endeavours of President Vansittart to form a plan** (p 8)—Vansittart had proposed to his Council an agreement with the Nawab of Bengal to the effect that in respect of the inland trade a uniform custom duty of 9% should be collected from the Company's servants and all other traders.

### No. 3—22 February 1764

1 **to purchase slaves at Madagascar for the service of Fort Marlborough Presidency** (p 11)—Slavery was common during this period, and in Madras and Calcutta there were regular slave markets. The number of negroes annually shipped from Africa was round about 70,000. H D Love, *Vestiges of Old Madras*, Vol I, pp 545-6, Peter Auber, *An Analysis of the Constitution of the East India Company*, pp 689-700.

2 **Ballasore Road** (p 14)—Balasore was the first place occupied by the English in eastern India. They established a permanent factory there in 1651. The town owed its importance to the safety of its roadstead near the mouth of the Ganges, which enabled sea-going ships to unload their cargoes into smaller vessels for transport up the Hooghly. As the river became more familiar to European pilots the importance of Balasore declined.

3 **Capt. Henry Wedderburn** (p. 15)—A free mariner in Bengal he served as a militia officer during the siege of Calcutta in 1756. He was appointed Master Attendant in 1758 but held that post for a short time. In the following year he served against the Dutch at Chandernagore, after which he became captain of a trading vessel. In 1763 he raised a company of volunteers against Mir Qasim and commanded it up to the close of operations in 1765. He was Master Attendant from 1769 till his death in 1777.

4 **King's warren** (p. 15)—Originally an old name for the site of Woolwich Arsenal in England, warren later required the general meaning of place or park where arsenal is tried and tested.

5 **Nundcomar** (p. 18)—Nandakumar was a *persona non grata* with Mir Qasim during whose regime he was imprisoned on account of carrying on treasonable correspondence with the French as also with Kamgar Khan zamindar of Narhat and Sheo Bhat Maratha governor of Orissa. On being restored to the *mansab* of Bengal in 1763 Mir Jafar appointed him as his *Dewan* and entrusted to him all the power of the State. Nandakumar held that office under Najmud Daulah as well but the Company had no faith in him in consequence of which he could not wield much power. C.P.C. I pp. 67, 256, 391, 2.

6 **Ramchurn** (p. 18)—Ramcharan was Durlabhram's agent. As a result of Nandakumar's false allegations he was confined for some time on suspicion of being connected with the correspondence carried on with Kamgar Khan to the detriment of the interests of the Company and Nawab Mir Qasim.

7 **Coja Petrus** (p. 18)—Khurja Petrus Arratoon was a very influential Armenian merchant who had been residing in Calcutta since 1748. He rendered timely assistance to the English by secretly supplying them with provisions when they had taken refuge in their ships at Balta after the fall of Fort William in June 1756. He was afterwards employed by Clive as a confidential agent in negotiations with Mir Jafar for the overthrow of Sirajud Daulah. His services were again utilised in 1760 when it was found expedient to replace Mir Jafar by Mir Qasim. Petrus was however suspected to have been a spy for Mir Qasim during the memorable campaign of October 1763 and was seized as such and ill treated but he finally convinced the Government of his innocence and unshaken loyalty to the British cause. He died in 1778 aged fifty three years. M. J. Seth, Khajah Petrus the Armenian Merchant Diplomat. *Indian Historical Records Commission Proceedings* Vol. XI pp. 151-67.

8 **Rajah of Meckly** (p. 19)—Meckley is one of the old names of the Manipur State. In 1762, Jai Singh who was its *de facto* rajah sought British military assistance against the Burmese and in return offered among other facilities rent free land for setting up an English factory and fort at Manipur and permission for duty free trade there. This gave the British an opportunity of contracting an alliance with Jai Singh which might open a road to them for obtaining reparation from the Burmese for the repeated ill treatment of the factory at Negrais. The Fort William Board therefore decided on 11 October 1762 to depute for the time being only 6 companies of sepoy in order to familiarise themselves with Burma.

with specific instructions not to commence hostilities without the Board's orders. The British detachment left Chittagong for Manipur in January 1763, but could not make much headway owing to rain and disease and eventually returned to Bengal. A F M Abdul Ali, 'Notes on the Early History of Manipur', *I H R C Proceedings*, Vol V, pp 119-24

9 **Mr. Amphlett's** (p 19)—Thomas Amphlett was the Chief Engineer and a member of the Committee of Works. He was obliged to resign the charge of the works at Fort William in October 1762 due to ill-health. A few months later he was appointed Resident at Murshidabad.

10 **fortifying Chittagong** (p 20)—Mr Plaisted surveyed the coast, creeks, rivers, islands, etc near Chittagong in 1761 and submitted his plan for fortification which was later rejected by the Court. C R Wilson, *Old Fort William in Bengal*, Vol II, pp 162, 164-5

11 **Capt. Fleming Martin** (p 20)—He took charge of the construction of the New Fort in Calcutta on 8 October 1764. He was promoted to the rank of Lt Col in 1768 and appointed Commandant of the Artillery Battalion.

12 **Burdwan province** (p 21)—Together with Midnapore and Chittagong, it was ceded to the Company by Mir Qasim on his accession as the Nawab of Bengal in 1760.

13 **Restitution Fund** (p 25)—Created in 1757 out of the money given by Mir Jafar towards payment of compensation for losses suffered during the sack of Calcutta.

14 *reserved commission* (p 26)—See paragraph 67 of the letter to Court dated 26 November 1764.

15 **legacies given by Omichund** (p 27)—Omichand (Amirchand), the famous Punjabi merchant deceived by Clive, died in December 1758. Besides making provision for the members of his family, he left a legacy of about forty-two lakhs of rupees for the support of the Sikh gurus. Hazari Mal, his brother-in-law and close business associate, was the principal executor of the will. There was no provision in the will for any charities in England. But to ingratiate himself with the Governor and Council Hazari Mal made unauthorised payments in that behalf. N K Sinha, *Economic History of Bengal*, Vol I, pp 238-44.

16 **West Coast** (p 29)—West Coast of Sumatra. The E I Company's relations with Sumatra date back to 1601 when Capt Lancaster, of the Company's first ship to the East Indies, entered into a treaty of commerce with the king of Achin. To compensate for losses in Java, a factory was set up at Benkulen in 1686-7, subordinate to Madras. It held out great promise for the future, so in 1702 it was made a separate Presidency, viz Fort Marlborough Presidency. This was an unwise step because in course of time the governing council got so embroiled in local politics that it was driven to seek refuge aboard the ships. Luckily the natives dreading the Dutch more allowed resettlement in 1721. The establishment was captured by the French during the Seven Year's War but abandoned before long. R. Grant, *History of the East India Company*.

17 William Ellis's conduct (p. 34)—William Ellis was the chief of Patna Factory. A man of violent temper he was a bitter enemy of Vansittart and in constant disputes with Mir Qasim's servants. At the time the letter was written by the Court he was already dead being killed in the Patna massacre in October 1763.

No. 4—23 March 1764

1 Definitive Treaty of Peace (p. 36)—Treaty of Paris concluded in February 1763 between Great Britain and France at the end of the Seven Years' War.

No. 6—9 May 1764

1 Lord Clive Jaghirc (p. 43)—In 1763 the Directors had stopped payment to Clive on account of his *jagir* but subsequently they passed the resolution mentioned here as they wished to make use of his services again. In 1766 they extended the period of payment up to 1785.

No. 7—16 May 1764

1 sailed the [ ] instant (p. 44)—The logbooks of the *Success* and the *Fort William* begin from 9 February and 17 February 1764 respectively. The precise date of their sailing however cannot be ascertained. India Office *List of Marine Records*.

2 military system proposed by our President Lord Clive (p. 45)—The plan was to divide the Bengal army into three brigades of uniform strength of European artillery and infantry and Indian cavalry and *sepoys*. The European cavalry was to be disbanded and the men transferred to the infantry and artillery. The artillery was to be formed into four companies one to each brigade and one stationed at Fort William. The scheme was implemented in 1765. George Forrest *The Life of Lord Clive* Vol. II p. 290.

No. 8—1 June 1764

1 Major Thomas Adams (p. 46)—He took the field against Mir Qasim in 1763 and achieved quick successes during the campaign. Starting just after a British reverse with a few English veterans and a handful of *sepoys* he defeated one of the Nawab's generals at Katwa, marched on Murshidabad and occupied it, won a brilliant victory at Cheria, dislodged the enemy from their position of great strength at the pass of Udhua Nullah and took Monghyr. He then marched on to Patna and took it by assault. The Nawab who had fled from there on the approach of the English was pursued as far as the boundary of Oudh. Broken down by illness Adams shortly afterward retired to Calcutta where he died on 16 January 1764.

2 Brigadier General Caillaud (p. 49)—Originally of the Madras army John Caillaud was appointed to the chief military command in Bengal in February 1760. He played a prominent part in the defence of Bihar against the Shahzada in 1760 and in setting up Mir Qasim. He went back to Madras in 1761 and became Brig. General in 1763. He was appointed C. in C. Madras in 1766. He resigned and returned to England in January 1767.

3 **Major Richard Smith** (p 50)—He was appointed Colonel, 2nd Bengal European Regiment, in May 1764. He sailed for India with Clive in June 1764 and on his arrival in 1765 took up his post at Allahabad. He became Brig General in January 1767 and was the C-in-C, Bengal, from that year till his resignation in 1770.

4 **Sir Robert Barker** (p 50)—He received in 1764 the local rank of Colonel in the King's army, and in 1765 that of Colonel of infantry in the Company's service. He was stationed at Bankipore as Commander of the 3rd Brigade. He was promoted as Brig General in 1770 and appointed C-in-C, Bengal. He resigned his command in December 1773, for he disapproved of the reforms introduced in the army by Warren Hastings.

5 **double batta** (p 51)—The normal field allowance (*batta*) plus an additional sum equal thereto granted by Mir Jafar and Mir Qasim to the Bengal army officers whenever their services were requisitioned.

6 **military department . . . under the direction of the civil power of the President and Council** (p 51)—This was one of the fundamental principles underlying the early administrative system of the Company in Bengal, repeatedly emphasized by the Court of Directors in their letters to Fort William.

7 **deed of agreement** (p 53)—The agreement took place on 5 May 1764, at a meeting of the General Court of Proprietors. Forrest, *op cit*, II, p 204.

8 **deed for covenant** (p 53)—The covenant to be entered into by the Company's civil servants provided against their accepting from Indian princes, chiefs, etc. any presents in cash or in kind except such as were permitted by the Company, while that intended to be executed by all the military officers in Bengal, besides containing the same provision, empowered the Government to send home to Great Britain any military officer who resigned or was dismissed. For the forms in which the covenants were required to be executed see William Bolts, *Considerations on India Affairs*, Appendix, pp 128-33.

9 **new treaty . . . with Jaffier Aly Cawn** (p 54)—This refers to the treaty with Mir Jafar on his restoration on 10 July 1763.

10 **appoint a committee** (p 55)—Clive had desired to be invested with power to overrule his Council, but the Directors were unwilling to allow him such absolute powers. A compromise was arrived at whereby Clive was to nominate a Select Committee of four with himself as its President. Forrest, *op cit*, II, p 204.

#### No. 10—21 November 1764

1 [. . . **Robert Brooke** . . .] (p 60)—In the *List of Marine Records* the ships shown against commanders Brooke, Fenner, Barkley and Payne are the *Speke*, the *Grenville*, the *Pacific* and the *Ponsborne* respectively.

2 **Council for . . . China** (p 61)—The Company's relations with China were purely commercial and confined to a small factory in the vicinity of Canton, which was merely a place of seasonal residence. The official agents of the Company were called supercargoes who constituted a body



called the China Council. Four seniormost among them generally formed the President and Select Committee, and they were assisted in running the factory by the remaining supercargoes and by writers. When business season was over the supercargoes used to retire to the island of Macao. Auber *op cit* pp 148-9

3 mutiny in the army (p 67)—It broke out on 11 February 1764. For details see pages 246-7 and 251 2 *ante*

4 French King's edict (p 69)—After the Seven Years War the financial condition of the French East India Company (*Compagnie des Indes*) deteriorated further so in 1764 its shareholders requested the French Government that since the primary responsibility for the stewardship of the Company lay with it, it might be freed from strict governmental control. This led to the issue of the edict of 1764 by which the control was considerably relaxed and the direction of the Company reorganised. S P Sen *The French in India* p 45

5 Isles of France and Bourbon (p 69)—The Isle of France or Mauritius as it is now called is an island in the Indian Ocean 550 miles east of Madagascar. It was discovered by the Portuguese in 1507 and given the name Cerne. On its occupation by the Dutch in 1598 its name was changed to Mauritius. The French occupied the island in 1710 and called it Isle of France. The English to whom it belongs since its capture from the French in 1810 renamed it Mauritius.

The Isle of Bourbon now known as Reunion is a French island in the Indian Ocean 115 miles south west of Mauritius and 350 miles east of Madagascar. It too was discovered by the Portuguese. The French took it in 1649 calling it successively Isle of Bourbon, Reunion (1798), Isle Bonaparte (1809) and Reunion again since 1848. The island was held by Britain from 1810 to 1815. David Patrick, *Concise Gazetteer of the World*

No 11—15 February 1765

1 careful surveys agreeable to our orders (p. 73)—Surveys of the Hooghly were to be carried out by the Master Attendant. The orders laid down his duties and contained instructions in regard to the organisation of the Marine Department.

2 Dutch East India Company saltpetre and opium trades (p 76)—The English East India Company had obtained monopoly in Bihar of saltpetre trade in 1757 and opium trade in 1761. They permitted the other European companies to purchase only a limited quantity of these commodities. This naturally led to constant friction between the Dutch and the English. K. K. Datta *The Dutch in Bengal and Bihar 1740-1825* p 82 ff

3 rule for the observance of every Presidency (p 85)—Legally speaking, until the enactment of the Regulating Act of 1773 the three Presidencies were independent of one another autonomous within their own limit and responsible only to the Company in England. But in reality there was a good deal of interdependence. The Directors therefore repeatedly impressed upon them the need for mutual help and co-operation.

This was one of the most important principles underlying the Company's early administrative system D N Banerjee, *Early Administrative System of the East India Company in Bengal*, Vol I, p 605 ff

4 **two distinct departments** (p 86)—This refers to departments for commercial business and military operations

5 *Hughley Captors* (p 88)—Hooghly was captured by the English in 1757 The reference is to the treasury accounts of those who fought in this expedition

#### No. 12—26 April 1765

1 **Major Munro** (p 95)—Maj Hector Munro belonged to 89th Regiment of the King's army He took command of the Bengal army in May 1764

2 *phurmaunds* (p 97)—The reference is to the *farmans* which the Company obtained from the Emperor Farrukhsiyar in 1717, confirming its privilege to carry on duty-free trade in Bengal.

3 **agreement between the Nabob Meer Jaffier . . . since the treaty** (p 97)—By the 10th article of the treaty Mir Jafar agreed to compensate for all private losses that might be caused by the impending war with Mir Qasim Since no specific amount was mentioned, the Council fleeced the Nawab to the maximum In the draft treaty the restitution money stipulated was 10 lakhs of rupees, after the treaty it was raised to 20 lakhs, and when the Nawab went to Calcutta to settle it, it was further raised to 40 lakhs The final demand, however, was for 48 lakhs besides the army and navy donations A C Roy, *The Career of Mir Jafar Khan*, pp 279-90

#### No. 15—24 December 1765

1 **Rajah's** (p 121)—Refers to Tilak Chand Rai who was the Raja of Burdwan from 1744 to 1771

2 *coss* (p. 123)—Corrupt form of *khas* which as a revenue term means direct management of estates and collection of revenue thereof by the officers of government without any intermediate person (such as a *zamindar* or a village chief) between them and the cultivators H H Wilson, *A Glossary of Judicial and Revenue Terms*

3 **Meckley expedition** (p 124)—See note on 'Rajah of Meckly' on page 484 *ante*

4 **Plaisted** (p 124)—Bartholomew Plaisted, Surveyor of Works, to whom the following plans and surveys are attributed plan and survey of the coast of Chittagong in 1761, sketch of the coast in 1761, and plan and survey of the Chittagong River in 1764 C R Wilson, *op cit*, II, p 164

5 **Chittagong River** (p 125)—Presumably Karnaphuli, the most important river of Chittagong The town of Chittagong is situated on its right bank near the mouth The river is 121 miles long, and navigable throughout the year for most of the distance *Chittagong District Gazetteer*

6 **the Tower** (p 126)—This refers to the Tower of London where an assay office and a mint were situated The records of the mint are available

## No 21—2 May 1766

1 unanimous request season in Bengal (p. 168)—Clive declined to comply with the Court's request on grounds of ill health For his reply see p 476 *ante*

## No 22—17 May 1766

1 amicable manner with Mr Law (p 172)—Jean Law de Lauriston on being appointed by the French Government as Royal Commissioner for receiving back from the English the French settlements in India in accordance with the Treaty of Paris (1763) returned to India in January 1765 and took possession of Karikal, Pondicherry and Chandernagore along with its subordinate factories including that at Balasore. (Taking over of the Balasore factory was delayed for the reason mentioned in para. 14 on p 349 *ante*). The other settlements, viz Mahe Surat Calicut Yanam and Masulipatam were also restored to the French in the course of 1765 See *op cit* p 34 ff

## No 23—17 May 1766

1 Bulwant Singh's joining us at the time he did (p 183)—Bulwant Singh Raja of Benares (1739-64 1765-70) had joined Shah Alam and Shujaud Daulah in their invasion of Bengal. After the disastrous battle of Buxar however he went over to the British camp and was anxious to seek their protection and to secure their recognition of his *zamindari* on the same terms on which he had hitherto held it from his liege lord Shujaud Daulah. By the agreement of 1764 between Shah Alam and the Company the overlordship of Bulwant Singh's estates was transferred from Oudh to the Company but the transfer was disapproved by the Court of Directors and in 1765 the control of the estates was restored to Oudh. Shujaud Daulah agreeing to guarantee Bulwant Singh all those estates on the condition of his paying him the same revenue as before A. L. Srivastava *Shujaud Daulah* Vol. I pp. 254-7 Vol. II p 14

2 concessions in favour of his country (p. 183)—This refers to the Treaty of Allahabad 1765

3 the office and power of the King's *Dewan* (p 184)—In its letter dated 24 January 1767 the Select Committee informed the Court that the functions of the *Dewan* were being carried out according to the latter's directions Fort William—India House Correspondence Vol V p. 277

4 concurrent testimonies of Mahmud Reza Cawn (p 187)—Muhammad Reza Khan represented to Clive on 23 June 1765 that the various amounts given to the members of Board and others were extracted from Najmud Daulah and not given voluntarily and that he himself was only acting as an agent between the parties concerned C.P.C., I pp 416-7

5 Mongheer treaty (p 189)—At the close of 1767 Van itart visited Mir Qasim at his capital Mongheer and concluded an agreement with him whereby English merchants were to pay 9% duty on the prime cost of all goods intended for private trade and disputes concerning such goods were to be investigated and settled by the Nawab's officer. Accusing Van itart

of collusion with the Nawab, the Council insisted on a right to duty-free private inland trade in all articles except salt, and rejected the agreement K K Datta, *Studies in the History of the Bengal Subah*, Vol I, pp 327-34

**No. 24—17 May 1766**

1 **the present intended for General Carnac** (p 194)—Shah Alam wrote to Lord Clive on 15 September 1765 that he proposed to give a present of two lakhs of rupees to General Carnac for his services in driving out the Marathas and restoring tranquillity in the country Home Public Consultation, 25 September 1765, No 7

**No. 26—21 November 1766**

1 **Joanna** (p 200)—Johanna, one of the four islands collectively known as Comoro Isles, is situated in the Mozambique Channel, between Africa and Madagascar It is also called Anjouan Patrick, *op cit*

2 **suspend Mr. Majendie** (p 211)—William Majendie was Secretary to the Fort William Board He and a few others addressed a memorial to the Court of Directors against Select Committee's appointing four civilians from Madras as members of the Fort William Board Though he was suspended for flouting the authority of the Select Committee, he was later reinstated by the Court after a reprimand, as a result of Lord Clive's recommendation and his own apologies Banerjee, *op cit*, pp 210-1

3 **John Johnstone . . like offence** (p 212)—On Najmud-Daulah's accession Johnstone had demanded a very large sum of money from him After a good deal of wrangling the Nawab gave two promissory notes for Rs 1,00,000 and Rs 50,000 payable to Johnstone and his brother respectively and another note for Rs 4,75,000 to be divided equally among Messrs Johnstone, Senior, Middleton, Leycester and Johnstone's brother *CPC*, I, p 416

4 **Bolackydass** (p 214)—The factors at Dacca had borrowed two lakhs of rupees from the banker Bulakidas Seth whose name later came to be associated with the trial of Nandakumar According to Muhammad Riza Khan, the amount received by the Company was Rs 2,30,000 Having failed to get justice in Bengal, Bulakidas sent an agent to England to represent his case before the Directors who thereupon ordered an enquiry to be made into the matter The payment was finally made in 1769 H Beveridge, *The Trial of Nanda Kumar*, p 11 ff *CPC*, I, p 249, *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol V, p 613

**No 27—21 November 1766**

1 **Chittabroy's . . King's Dewan** (p 220)—While the Company itself was the *Diwan*, the actual administration of revenues in Bihar was in the hands of Shitab Rai as *Naib Diwan* from 1765 to 1772 His activities were, to a limited extent, directed by British supervisors who had an overall, though not an immediate, control over the collections Hastings put an end to the dual control by abolishing the office of *Naib Diwan* and Shitab Rai was prosecuted for peculation He was later exonerated

## LETTERS TO COURT

2 **proceedings** **Calcutta lands** (p. 223)—In order to get more revenue the Company's servants introduced a new system in the freshly required districts of 24 Parganas (referred to here as Calcutta lands). Burdwan and Midnapore. They disregarded the customary rights of the zamindars and let out their lands by public auction for a short term of three years. Such temporary leases were known as *ijaras* and the system adopted was called the *ijara* system as opposed to the *zamindari* system. Thus oppressive system was subsequently extended to the whole of Bengal. Romesh Dutt *The Economic History of India* Vol I p. 31 ff F D Ascoli *Early Revenue History of Bengal & The Fifth Report* 1812, p. 32.

3 **Mr Floyer** (p. 225)—Charles Floyer was one of the four civilians from Fort St. George whom Clive invited to take seat in the Council at Fort William in 1766. He held at different periods important posts such as those of Military Paymaster-General, Military Store-keeper, Mint Master and Secretary to Select Committee.

4 **Mr Leycester's minutes** (p. 226)—Ralph Leycester was prosecuted in England in 1766 for "divers large sums of money jewels, and other valuable things, obtained from the Nabob (i.e. Nazim ud Dowla)." Binerjee op cit p. 589.

5 **Mr Gray** (p. 226)—Though he could not be immediately compelled to make restitution of the sums received from Najmud Daulah he had to face like Leycester a law suit on that account in England.

## LETTERS TO COURT

No. 1—20 February 1764

1 **reduction of Madura** (p. 236)—An English force under Col. Monson was sent against Yusuf Khan, the governor of Madura, in 1763 to lay siege to the town. Monson was forced to raise the siege in November but it was renewed in April 1764 under Maj. Charles Campbell when the garrison was obliged to surrender due to scarcity and discontent in the Khan's army. John Buddulph *Stringer Lawrence* pp. 111, 2.

2 **death of Major Adams** (p. 237)—In the war against Mir Qasim Maj. Thomas Adams won four brilliant victories during 1763 but he was broken down by illness that after capturing Patna and pursuing the Nawab as far as the boundary of Oudh he retired to Calcutta where he died on 16 January 1764.

3 **Major Knox** (p. 237)—Maj. Randolph Knox was appointed Quarter Master General to Maj. Adams's force in July 1763. He succeeded Adams in command of the field army in December 1763 but being in ill health he was obliged to hand over the command to Capt. William Jennings. He died at Patna on 28 January 1764.

4 **Captain Archibald Swinton** (p. 238)—In the war with Mir Qasim he was wounded during the capture of Monghyr and lost an arm during the siege of Patna. He raised at Midnapore in 1763 the 10th battalion of sepoy which came to be known after him as *Soolteen ki Paltan*. He was

appointed Persian Interpreter to Carnac in January 1765 and placed in charge of the *Harkara* (Intelligence) Department with the field army in March 1765. He resigned and sailed for England in January 1766, carrying a letter from Shah Alam to King George III.

5 **directions the gentlemen at Dacca had given** (p. 239)—The Dacca factory was attacked by Mir Qasim's forces and plundered in July 1765. Forrest, *op cit*, II, p. 238.

6 **we shall pay to Mr. Van Sittart . . . commission** (p. 240)—Henry Vansittart was originally granted, as President, a commission of 2½ per cent on the net annual revenue of the Company's lands in Calcutta and the 24-Parganas. The Court of Directors not only confirmed this but also granted him a further commission of 2½ per cent on net revenue from the lands ceded by Mir Qasim in 1760. This additional emolument was "expressly to be understood as a distinct reward due to the personal merit of President Vansittart", and was not to be claimed by his successors. Banerjee, *op cit*, pp. 134-6.

#### No. 2—20 February 1764

1 **payment of the thirty lacks** (p. 246)—This refers to the 10th article of Mir Jafar's treaty with the Company, dated 10 July 1763, by which the Nawab agreed to pay "thirty lacks of rupees to defray all the expenses and loss accruing to the Company from the war and stoppage of their investment". Bolts, *op cit*, Appendix, pp. 16-7.

2 **Capt. Jennings** (p. 247)—Capt. William Jennings was the commandant of the Bengal Artillery from 1758 till his death in 1766. He took part in the war with Mir Qasim in 1763 and succeeded Maj. Randfurthe Knox in command of the field army in January 1764.

3 **those returning from Manilha** (p. 247)—During the course of the Seven Years' War a British expeditionary force was sent from Madras, in 1762, to Manila in the Philippine Islands then belonging to Spain, an ally of France. The town was captured within 12 days, but by the Treaty of Paris (1763) the colony was restored to Spain and the troops withdrawn.

#### No. 3—19 March 1764

1 **Russian officers, who came out on his ship** (p. 249)—During the Seven Years' War the Empress of Russia had requested the British Government to arrange for the training of certain Russian officers in advanced techniques of navigation on British war-ships. But the officers arrived only after peace was concluded, so they were accommodated on the Company's ships for their return journey. Home Public letter from Court, dated 6 April 1763.

2 **Mr. Graham** (p. 249)—John Graham joined the Company's service as a writer in 1758. He became Sub-Secretary to the Fort William Board in 1762 and Secretary in 1763. Later he was appointed Agent for the Company's Navy and administered, in that capacity, the navy donation given by Mir Jafar.

## No 5—25 March 1764

1 The appointment of Mr Spencer (p 253)—Vansittart returned to England in November 1764 and John Spencer assumed office on 3 December 1764

2 memorial (p. 253)—Vansittart here refers to his work *A Narrative of the Transactions in Bengal from the Year 1760 to the Year 1764*

## No 7—27 September 1764

1 massacre at Patna (p 258)—During his war with the English in 1763 Mir Qasim having been beaten in several encounters retreated to Monghyr. After staying there for a few days he proceeded with the main body of his troops to Patna leaving a strong garrison behind to guard the fort and taking with him all his European prisoners. He wrote a letter to Maj Adams threatening to put the prisoners to death if the British army continued to advance. When the Nawab heard later that Monghyr had surrendered he carried out his threat and ordered the European prisoners to be murdered. On 4 October 1763 Walter Reinhardt commonly known as Sombre or Samru in compliance with the Nawab's orders massacred upwards of fifty civil and military officers and one hundred soldiers.

## No 8—6 November 1764

1 victory at Buxar (p. 260)—On 23 October 1764 Maj Munro led his troops against the Nawab Vazir who had encamped for several months at Buxar with an army of 50 000 men and completely routed him.

## No 9—26 November 1764

1 murderers (p 262)—The reference is to the perpetrators of the massacre of Patna—Mir Qasim and Walter Reinhardt.

2 Beni Bahadur (p 263)—A brahmin of obscure origin Beni Bahadur by dint of natural talent rose to be Shujaud Daulah's *Dewan* in 1755 and his *Nazib* in 1759. He was from the very beginning pro-English in attitude. After the battle of Buxar he was commissioned by the Vazir to negotiate a treaty with the English. On the fall of Allahabad he was persuaded by Carnac to accept the governorship of Oudh on condition that he placed his services at the disposal of the British. He accepted but reverted to allegiance of the Vazir on learning that the English demanded his women as hostages for his fidelity. The Vazir however could not forgive him this lapse and was anxious to chastise him. In 1767 he was dismissed and blinded. *Srivastava op cit* I pp 262, 281 2 II 33-40

3 our terms (p 263)—The Nawab Vazir offered fifty lakhs of rupees for the Company and its army and eight lakhs for Maj Munro. But in his letter dated 16 November 1764 Maj Munro informed Beni Bahadur that the surrender of Mir Qasim and Samru was a condition precedent to peace. *CJC.*, I p 359

4 last treaty (p 264)—The third article of this treaty confirmed to the English the privilege of carrying on duty free trade in all articles except salt on which a duty of 2½ per cent was to be levied. *Bolts op cit* Appendix p 15

## No. 10—26 November 1764

1 **particular instructions** (p 266)—In the beginning of 1764 the Court of Directors invested Vansittart with extraordinary powers to enable him to deal with the critical situation in Bengal. He was to be the sole administrator of the Company's affairs and his orders and directions were binding on all the members of the Council as well as other servants of the Company in Bengal. Banerjee, *op cit*, p 181

## No. 11—26 November 1764

1 **Committee of Aurungs** (p 271)—This Committee looked after the investments of the Company. In 1768 the work of corresponding with the Dutch and the French regarding their investments was added to its other duties, as the President who hitherto dealt with this work, found little time for it. *Fort William—India House Correspondence*, Vol V, pp 434-5

2 **Committee of Lands** (p 273)—This Committee, consisting of five persons, was set up for the management of the Company's new territorial acquisitions in 1760. A covenanted servant was its secretary and accountant. The President assumed full powers whenever he found it necessary. Home Public letter from Court, 1 April 1760, para 96

3 **James Rennell** (p 275)—Originally belonging to the Royal Navy, he entered the Company's naval service in 1763 and commanded the *Neptune* in which he conducted survey of the Palk Strait and Pamban Channel. He was ordered to make a survey of Bengal in 1764 and started that work in May. He became Surveyor General in 1767.

4 **restitution stipulated by the Nabob Meer Jaffier in his treaty** (p 277)—According to the 5th article of the treaty signed in June 1757, Mir Jafar was to give 50 lakhs of rupees "for the effects plundered from the English inhabitants at Calcutta" during Sirajud-Daulah's capture of the city. By articles 4, 6 and 7 he promised to pay one crore of rupees for the losses sustained by the Company during the capture of Calcutta, 20 lakhs for the Hindu and Muslim sufferers and 7 lakhs for the Armenian sufferers. Bolts, *op cit*, Appendix, pp 5-6

5 **Roydoolub** (p 278)—Durlabhram Mahindra, who was commonly known as Raidurlabh, was a high official of the *Nizamat*. He served as a minister under Alivardi, Sirajud-Daulah and Mir Jafar. Later he, along with Muhammad Riza Khan and Jagat Seth, was appointed for the general administration and revenue collection of the *Nizamat*.

6 **last year's treaty with the Nabob . . . be made good to them** (p 280)—Refers to the 10th article of the treaty with Mir Jafar, dated 10 July 1763. Bolts, *op cit*, Appendix, pp 16-7

7 **Mr. Campbell . . . the regulations** (p 281)—The regulations provided for the maintenance of registers in which the receipt, delivery, assay and produce of all money sent to the mint was to be entered to the satisfaction of every proprietor of bullion. Also all bullion of sufficient purity was to be coined into *shikha* or Arcot rupees without the process of refining within 15 days of its receipt. Home Public Proceedings, July-December 1764, pp 731-4



## No 12—8 December 1764

1 **Usoff Cawn's own troops** (p 290)—Yusuf Khan Subahdar of Nellore, joined the Company's service in 1751 and later became the Commandant of the Company's Sepoys. In 1761 he was appointed governor of Madura and Tinnevely. Before long he began to aim at independence in consequence of which a force was sent against him. After several engagements he was finally seized and hanged on 15 October 1764. Biddulph *op cit* p. 110 ff. Love *op cit* II pp 515 588

## No 13—3 January 1765

1 **paper of articles** (p 291)—This was sent to Maj Munro on 6 December 1764 for execution by Shah Alam. For particulars see Bolts *op cit* Appendix, pp 20-1

## No 14—6 February 1765

1 **the plurmaund** (p. 295)—It refers to the *farman* of Shah Alam dated 20 December 1764 granting to the Company the *zamindari* of Ghazi pur Benares etc., held by Raja Balwant Singh. For further particulars see Bolts, *op cit.*, Appendix pp 21 2.

2 **his decease cannot be very remote** (p 297)—Mir Jafar expired on 5 February 1765 aged 74

## No 15—6 February 1765

1 **myself entirely excluded** (p 298)—On Clive's insistence the Court of Directors cancelled on 27 April 1764 John Spencer's nomination to the governorship of Bengal and transferred him back to Bombay. Forrest *op cit* II pp 201 2.

2 **Mr Sumner** (p 299)—William Brightwell Sumner entered the Company's service in November 1744 as a writer and rose to be a member of the Fort William Board in January 1759. In 1765 he became Second in Council and was to succeed Clive in case of his death or return to England. Banerjee *op cit* pp 122 3

## No 16—6 February 1765

1 **reduction of the *batta*** (p 304)—The Court's letter dated 1 June 1764 in which they had ordered the withdrawal of double *batta* reached Calcutta in January 1765 soon after the battle of Buxar. Forrest, *op cit.*, II p 314

2 **Richard Barwell** (p 304)—Previous to his appointment as Resident at Malda he was Sub-Accountant. He held many important positions in the Company's service later and finally rose to be one of the Councillors during the governorship of Warren Hastings. He was Hastings' greatest supporter

## No 17—8 February 1765

1 **we propose to nominate** authority of the Company (p. 312)—Spencer and his colleagues were aware that Clive was on his way to India

with orders to root out such abuses as acceptance of presents, etc. So before his arrival, on coming to know of Mir Jafar's death, they hastened to acknowledge his eldest son Najmud-Daulah as Nawab. Besides curtailing his power, they required the new Nawab to make donations to the Councillors to the tune of twenty lakhs of rupees and to confirm to the Company's servants the privilege of duty-free inland trade. Forrest, *op cit*, II, p 261.

#### No. 18—11 March 1765

1 **both places . . . surrendered** (p 314)—In the reduction of the important forts of Allahabad and Chunar Maj Fletcher at first tried persuasion and diplomacy with the help of Shah Alam who called upon the garrisons to surrender, but it was of no avail. After some hard fighting, the beleaguered fort at Allahabad surrendered on 8 February 1765 through the mediation of Najaf Khan. Chunargarh surrendered to Maj Subbert on the same day with practically no loss on the English side. Srivastava, *op cit*, I, pp 271-9.

2 **son of Miran** (p 315)—Saiyid Murtaza Khan alias Mir Saidu. He was a child of six when his grandfather Mir Jafar died. Clive, like Mr Burdett, was in favour of recognising him as Nawab and ruling in his name. But before Clive could reach Calcutta Najmud-Daulah was declared as Nawab. Mir Saidu was given a pension of Rs 3,000 a month from the *Nizamat*. He died on 14 January 1810. *CPC*, VII, p 6, Forrest, *op cit*, II, p 261.

3 **arrangements . . . made in the Government** (p 315)—Najmud-Daulah was recognised as Nawab on condition that he would appoint as minister a person nominated by the English, and he would not remove him without their consent. The minister was to hold the title of *Naib Subah* and was to manage all the affairs of the Nawab. Thus the Nawab was reduced to a mere figurehead, entire administration being conducted by a nominee of the English.

4 **accordingly executed it . . . of the Durbar** (p 315)—The treaty with Najmud-Daulah was signed on 25 February 1765. For details see Bolts, *op cit*, Appendix, pp 22-5.

5 **Mr. Gray . . . dissented from the first part of them** (p 316)—On 19 February 1765 George Gray, a member of the Board, delivered, after the fair copy of the proposed treaty with Najmud-Daulah had been read at the secret consultation held on that day, a minute in which he expressed himself against reducing the new Nawab into a mere cipher. His main objections were to the appointment of Muhammad Riza Khan as *Naib Subah* and assumption by the Board of veto power in the appointment of officers of the Government. On the next day he delivered another minute, asserting among other things that the *Naib Subah* should be a person in whom the Nawab might have sufficient confidence. Banerjee, *op cit*, pp 32-5.

6 **arrival there of Mr Law** (p 316)—Jean Law de Lauriston, who was appointed Governor of the French settlements in India and Royal Commissioner for receiving back from the English the former French possessions in accordance with article 11 of the Treaty of Paris (1763), left France for India on 1 April 1764 and landed at Madras on 29 January 1765. He took

possession of Karikal on 18 February and of Pondicherry on 11 April 1765. The other settlements also were taken back by the French in the course of the year *Sen op cit* pp 34-5

7 **General Carnac** mentioned him with the same want of candour (p 317)—Vansittart's Council was openly hostile to him on the question of private trade carried on duty free by the Company's servants and their agents. When Vansittart attempted to reach a compromise on this question with the Nawab Maj Carnac was one of those who vehemently opposed him and became uncivil and insolent. This resulted in his dismissal (Carnac's letter however is not traceable among the Company's records either in India or in England). L. S. Sutherland *The East India Company in Eighteenth-Century Politics* p. 116.

8 **Mr Marriott** (p 317)—Randolph Marriott became a member of the Council under Vansittart. In 1765 he was sent to Benares as Resident but soon got into trouble for appropriating illicit profits from the local mint. Later he was appointed one of His Majesty's Justices of the Peace.

9 **reverse of Lord Clive's jaghire** (p 317)—Najmud Daulah issued a *sanad* dated 23 June 1765 for the reversion in perpetuity of Lord Clive's jagir to the Company in 1774 after the expiration of the 10-year term during which Lord Clive was to enjoy it. *Bolts op cit.*, Appendix, p. 76

#### No 19—11 March 1765

1 **our engagements** provinces upon us (p 319)—According to the terms of the treaty dated 25 February 1765 the English were to maintain an adequate force to support the Nawab in the defence of the provinces of Bengal Bihar and Orissa against all enemies. *Ibid* pp 22-3.

2 **hon'ble distinctions you have been pleased to shew him** (p. 321)—John Carnac was reappointed C.-in-C. with the rank of Colonel and the title of Brig-General on 20 December 1764. He arrived and assumed command of the army at Chunar on 13 February 1765. *Srivastava op cit* I pp 267-280

#### No 20—14 March 1765

1 **General Carnac possesses himself of Lucknow** (p 324)—A detachment sent by Carnac occupied Lucknow in the third week of March 1765 without obstruction. *Ibid.*, pp 282-3

2 **Nejib O Dowla** (p 325)—Najibud Daulah the Rohilla chief was the prime minister and supreme power behind the throne at Delhi at this time. Shujaud Daulah's proposal to him for an offensive alliance against the English met with an evasive reply. Najib excused himself on the plea of his preoccupation with the Jat war. *Ibid* p 286

3 **steps we have taken** Nundocomar (p 326)—The whole charge of Government was placed in the hands of Muhammad Riza Khan as the *Narb Subah*. The collection of revenues was however entrusted to Nanda Kumar and Raidurlabhi. Banerjee *op cit* pp. 12-3

4 **procure for you** Northern Circars (p 327)—Nizam Ali had offered the *sarkars* to the English on condition that they would render him

military aid whenever in need, but the offer had not been accepted. In 1765, the Company obtained a grant of all the five *sarkars* from Shah Alam, which were taken over by General Caillaud. Nizam Ali did not silently acquiesce in this dismemberment of his dominions, and the dispute continued till 12 November 1766 when a settlement was arrived at by which in return for the grant of the *sarkars* the Company agreed to keep a body of troops ready to help the Nizam and to pay him a tribute of nine lakhs annually when such aid was not required.

5 **Major Pemble** (p 329)—Charles Pemble entered the Bombay army in 1750. He distinguished himself in the expedition to Manila. In 1763, he embarked for Bengal with the Bombay troops under Maj Munro. He commanded the second line at the battle of Buxar. He was promoted to the rank of Major in 1764. In 1767 he was transferred back to Bombay where he became C-in-C in 1768 and held that position till his death in 1770.

#### No. 21—30 September 1765

1 **Upon my arrival** (p 330)—Clive boarded the *Kent* at Portsmouth on 4 June 1764 and, after a voyage of little more than ten months, landed at Madras on 10 April 1765. He reached Calcutta on 3 May. Forrest, *op cit*, II, pp 245, 255, 259.

2 **This I can assure you happened at Benares** (p 332)—On his arrival near Benares after the battle of Buxar, Maj Munro sent some troops for its defence and issued strict orders against the plunder of the city. The inhabitants promised to pay four lakhs of rupees for this protection, and the Board gladly approved of the acceptance of the ransom as a reward to the army. Though further levies from the people were prohibited, contemporary sources mention the fact that wealthy inhabitants and merchants were compelled to make further contributions and that there was some looting also. Srivastava, *op cit*, I, pp 250-1.

3 **treaty of peace with the Vizier** (p 333)—Refers to the treaty between Nawab Shujaud-Daulah on the one hand and Nawab Najmud-Daulah and the Company on the other, concluded at Allahabad on 16 August 1765. For details see Srivastava, *op cit*, II, pp 14-5.

4 **expedient of a Select Committee** (p 335)—For the Court's object in appointing the Select Committee consisting of Clive, Sumner, Carnac, Verelst and Sykes, see para 67 on page 55 *ante*.

5 **appointments from another settlement** (p 336)—The President and Council were empowered to fill casual vacancies in the Council from among the senior servants in Bengal. But at the instance of Lord Clive the Select Committee, in exercise of the extraordinary powers vested in it, decided to make appointments from Madras for reforming the system of administration in Bengal. Banerjee, *op cit*, pp 199-200.

6 **allowance for the support of the Nabob's dignity and power** (p 337)—According to the agreement with Nawab Najmud-Daulah executed through Francis Sykes in July 1765, the Nawab was promised a sum of Rs 5,386,131-9-0 or £6,73,266 annually in return for the revenues which had been granted to the Company by Shah Alam. Bolts, *op cit*, Appendix, pp 37-8.

7 **Juggut Seth** (p 339)—Jagat Seth was not a name but a title borne by the senior partner of the great banking house at Murshidabad. The title was first conferred by the Mughal Emperor upon Fateh Chand the adopted son of Manik Chand who is regarded as the founder of the Seth family in Bengal. The name of the Jagat Seth referred to here was Khushal Chand. Banerjee *op cit* pp 45-6

8 **appointed jointly his affairs** (p 339)—The administrative arrangements made by the Company in February 1765 on the accession of Najmud Daulah were materially altered in June 1765. To avoid the danger involved in investing all power in one man i.e. Muhammad Riza Khan, it was resolved that he should cease to be *Naib Subah* and that Raidurlabh and Jagat Seth be associated with him in the administration of the Government, each enjoying an equal share of power and authority *Ibid*

9 **Mr Sykes** (p 339)—Francis Sykes had gained experience in the country politics first as an assistant and later as a member of the Council at Cossimbazar. He was appointed Resident at Murshidabad in place of Samuel Middleton at the instance of the Select Committee. One of his duties was to maintain balance of power among Riza Khan Jagat Seth and Raidurlabh ministers of Najmud Daulah.

10 **particulars of these regulations** (p 340)—The trade in salt, betel nut and tobacco was to be conducted solely by a Society of Trade in which all the Company's servants excepting writers and army officers below the rank of major were to have shares according to their respective ranks. The supplies were to be obtained through Indian merchants and retailed by agents generally European at rates 12 or 15 per cent below the average rate of the 20 years preceding. A duty of 35 per cent on salt 10 per cent on betel nut and 25 per cent on tobacco was to be levied by the Company. The plan was tried on experimental basis for one year. Forrest *op cit* II pp 301-2.

11 **advantages proposed for the Governor and Council** (p 340)—Members of the Council were to have two shares each in the Society of Trade and it was calculated that their profits would amount to £7,000 per annum per head while the Governor's five shares would yield an income of £17,500 *Ibid*

12 **appointing field officers** (p 341)—Clive realised that military discipline could only be inculcated by efficient regimental officers. He therefore introduced into each brigade more field officers than there were in the whole force before he took over charge in 1765 *Ibid* p 291

13 **Lieut Colonel Peach** (p. 342)—Joseph Peach a Lieutenant in H.M.'s army was appointed a field officer on the Bengal establishment in May 1764 while he was still in England. He commanded the 2nd European Regiment in the 2nd Brigade at Allahabad in 1765.

14 **Lieut Colonel Chapman** (p 342)—Charles Chapman was transferred as Lt. Col. from H.M.'s army in 1765 to command the 3rd Bengal European Regiment in the 3rd Brigade. He was appointed C. in C. in December 1773 but resigned in January 1774.

15 **Mr. Verelst** (p 344)—Harry Verelst succeeded Clive as Governor of Bengal in January 1767, and held the office until December 1769. He was a great friend and confidant of Clive. He is the author of *A View of the Rise, Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal*.

16 **Mr. Johnstone** . . . throw out some observations (p 344)—John Johnstone was the most bitter foe of Clive in the Bengal Council. When the question of receiving presents was brought before the Council, Johnstone, who was chiefly implicated, sought to defend himself by a malicious attack on Clive's acceptance of *jagir* from Mir Jafar. Forrest, *op cit*, II, pp 265-6

#### No 22—30 September 1765

1 **Act of Restitution of Chandernagore** (p 350)—For the Act in French and English languages see Home Public Consultations, 21 June 1765, Nos 1-2

2 **Before Colonel Smith** . . representation (p 351)—For details of Col Richard Smith's representation dated 22 May 1765 against the orders of the Court of Directors contained in their General Letter of 1 June 1764, see Home Public Proceedings, 25 January-30 December 1765, pp 13-6

3 **sums which had been received** . . . his Excellency (p 352)—Before the Committee of the House of Commons in 1773 it was proved that the members of the Board had received large sums of money on Najmud-Daulah's accession. Spencer, Rs 2,00,000, Playdell, Rs 1,00,000; Burdett, Rs 1,00,000, Gray, Rs 1,00,000, Johnstone, Rs 2,37,000, Leycester, Rs 1,12,500, Senior, Rs 1,72,500, and Middleton, Rs 1,22,500. Mill, *op cit*, III, p 259

4 **Zemindar confined** . . a *ghautmanjee* (p 353)—The *ghat-manjhi* employed by Lord Clive was alleged to have hired out to Capt Swallow leaky boats for carrying his salt up the country, resulting in great loss to the Captain. Burdett, as the *Zamindar* of 24-Parganas, had therefore ordered the *ghat-manjhi* to be detained in the cutchery. Home Public Consultation, 24 June 1765, No 3(a)

5 **note of hand** (p 353)—Raidurlabh is said to have given to Burdett a promissory note for Rs 90,000. Home Public Consultation, 14 October 1765, No 8

6 **Mr. Sykes** . . to proceed to Murshedabad (p 354)—Francis Sykes was sent to Murshidabad as a deputy of the Select Committee on the suggestion of Clive. He was specially commissioned to examine and report on the "equal partition of power between Mahomed Reza Cawn, Doolubram and Juggutseat" which was in danger of being disturbed through the ambition of Raidurlabh. Samuel Middleton, Resident at Murshidabad, was informed by the Committee on 9 July 1765 that he should not regard Sykes's visit as a reflection on his capacity for such kind of work. Select Committee Proceedings, 7 July 1765

7 **Messrs. Sumner** . . . constituted the Committee (p 356)—The actual decision to institute the Society of Trade was taken at the meeting of the Select Committee on 10 August 1765. The plan of the Society was framed principally by Sumner. A Committee of Trade was formed

consisting of four persons, namely Sumner and Verelst representing the Select Committee and Leycester and Grav representing the Council. For further particulars see Banerjee *op cit* pp 390-4

8. donation to       squadron under his command (p. 357)—The demand for donation to the navy was the most unjustified and iniquitous of the extortions from Mir Jafar as the navy as such had hardly rendered any service during the war. The original demand was for 25 lakhs of rupees. Mir Jafar strongly protested and even threatened to resign but pressure was brought to bear upon him through Raidurlabh and Nanda kumar. Ultimately the Nawab was not only made to pay 2½ lakhs in cash but was forced to make a further payment of 12½ lakhs in instalments and to acknowledge in writing that the donation was voluntary. The Court of Directors was kept in the dark about this transaction for which the Council was severely criticised in the Court's letter dated 24th December 1765. Roy *op cit* pp 286-90

#### No 23—28 November 1765

1 Mr Bolts (p 363)—A merchant of Dutch extraction William Bolts entered the East India Company's service in 1759. He became Second in Council at Benares in 1764. He was censured by the Court of Directors for carrying on private trade under the Company's authority and for other acts of misconduct and was obliged to resign in 1766. As a result of his acrimonious quarrel with the Bengal authorities he was arrested in 1768 and deported to England as an interloper. He avenged himself by attacking the Bengal Government in his *Considerations on India Affairs* which was published by him in 1772.

2. state of the treasury (p 363)—The Company had a cypher code for the purpose of conveying secret and confidential dispatches which Clive has used in this and the succeeding paragraphs for reporting the state of the treasury to the Court of Directors.

#### No 24—29 January 1766

1 Gerard Gustavus Du Carel (p. 373)—Ducarel a writer on the Bengal establishment was one of those junior servants of the Company who had signed the memorial addressed by them to the Court of Directors protesting against the appointment of four civilians from Fort St. George as members of the Fort William Board. He soon realised the impropriety of his conduct and sought to withdraw his name from the memorial. The Court pardoned him and directed the Board to give him preference when any advantageous post suitable to his rank and standing in the service should fall vacant. *Fort William—India House Correspondence* Vol V pp 27-88

#### No 25—31 January 1766

1 *batta* should be struck off (p 381)—The Court's orders dated 1 June 1764 regarding the abolition of double *batta* had been deferred by the Fort William Board until the arrival of Lord Clive. After the treaty with the Nawab Vazir of Oudh Clive determined to enforce them and in

September 1765 notified that the privilege would cease with effect from 1 January 1766. Forrest *op cit*, II, p 314

2 European agents for disposing of the Society's concerns (p 383)—The Committee of Trade suggested the appointment of European agents on 21 October 1765, and the Select Committee accepted the suggestion on 29 October 1765. Accordingly nine persons were appointed agents to the Salt Society. They were required to execute a penal bond for Rs 30,000 and undertake not to indulge in private trade or money-lending or interfere with the administration of justice or of revenue. Banerjee, *op cit*, pp 402-4

3 appointing Mr. Verelst, Supervisor (p 384)—Harry Verelst was appointed Supervisor of the revenues of Burdwan in 1765 and of those of Midnapore in the succeeding year. He introduced useful reforms which led to a considerable increase in the Company's revenues. Harry Verelst, *A View of the Rise Progress and Present State of the English Government in Bengal*, pp 72-3, Appendix, pp 212-9

4 Mooteraum (p 386)—Motiram was the agent through whom Johnstone used to send messages to Muhammad Riza Khan for procuring money from Najmud Daulah. CPC, I, pp 116-7

5 Ramnaut (p 387)—In 1761-5, Ramnath, *gumashta* of Gray, collected under the orders of his master money from the *pargana* of Havili-Pinjera in Dinajpur by oppression and violence. Home Public Consultation, 5 December 1765, No 1(a)

6 memorial of complaint (p 388)—For a copy of the memorial see Banerjee, *op cit*, pp 645-6

#### No. 26—1 February 1766

1 new mode of carrying on the salt trade (p 396)—This refers to Clive's second plan for the Society of Trade, approved by the Select Committee on 3 September 1766. For details see Select Committee Proceedings, 3 September 1766

#### No 28—24 March 1766

1 Malwans (p 405)—Maratha pirates whose stronghold was Malvan in Ratnagiri District, Bombay. Towards the close of 1812 they were completely extirpated by Col Lionel Smith, and the town of Malvan was ceded to the British by the Raja of Kolhapur

2 Meer Ashroff (p 408)—Mir Ashraf was a merchant of Patna employed by William Ellis for the purchase of cloth for the Company. Home Public Consultation, 20 May 1765, No 3

3 consequence of his refusal (p 420)—Ensign Thomas French was compelled to accept the seat as Alderman in the Mayor's Court under threat of suspension. He held that position till his death in 1768

#### No. 30—6 September 1766

1 Committee of Inspection (p 423)—It was appointed on 28 February 1766 with Clive, Sumner, Carnac, Verelst, Russell and Aldersey as its members. Select Committee Proceedings, 28 February 1766.



2. **mutinous spirit amongst the military officers** (p 426)—The orders stopping double *batta* served as a signal for mutinous conduct of the officers which first manifested itself in the brigade at Monghyr and later spread to the other two brigades stationed at Bankipore and Allahabad. The sepoys however exhibited steady obedience everywhere and Clive soon succeeded in restoring discipline among the officers. Mill *op cit* III pp 294-8.

3 **solemn engagements and penalty bonds** (p 428)—During the mutiny in 1766 the officers leagued together by an oath to preserve at the risk of their own lives the life of any officer whom a court-martial might condemn to death. Also each officer executed a penalty bond of £500 not to accept his commission till double *batta* was restored. *Ibid*

4 **Capt. Stanforth** (p 429)—Originally belonging to the King's army John Stanforth was appointed Captain in Bengal army while in England in November 1764. In September 1766 he was cashiered for threatening to assassinate Clive. He was, however reinstated by the Court of Directors in January 1770

#### No 32—8 September 1766

1 **benefits of the Mutiny Bill** (p 435)—On the lines of the annual Mutiny Acts of England, the Act of 1754 (27 Geo II C. 9) imposed penalties for mutiny desertion and similar offences by officers or soldiers in the Company's Indian forces. The Fort William Board and the Commander in Chief were authorised to hold with the consent of the Court of Directors court martial for the trial and punishment of military offences. Courtenay Ilbert *The Government of India* p 34

2 **a congress was held at Chuprah** (p 436)—A meeting between the English and Shujaud Daulah and other Indian powers was held at Chapra in June 1766 to discuss and decide the terms of a confederacy against a possible alliance between Shah Alam and the Marathas. Clive gave up the idea of entering into any definite treaty engagement with native powers as there was no immediate danger from the Marathas. The only tangible achievements of the congress however were the final settlement of relations between Oudh and Benares and Shujaud Daulah's clearing off the balance of war indemnity in fulfilment of the treaty of Allahabad. Srivastava, *op cit* II pp 27-32.

#### No 33—28 November 1766

1 **a new one entered into with the Nabob Syf-O Dowlah** (p 449)—The treaty with Saifud Daulah was concluded on 19 May 1766 whereby he was to be paid an annual stipend of about 42 lakhs of rupees. For details see J.H.T. Walsh *History of Murshidabad* p. 169

2 **the two Seths sons of those who were cut off by Cossim Ali Cawn** (p 449)—Mir Qasim borrowed in 1760 a large sum of money from the Seths Mahtab Rai and Swarup Chand with the help of Vansittart. But in 1763 suspecting them to be in some secret conspiracy against him with the English he interned them. The demand by the English for their release was rejected and the two Seths were finally put to death by Reinhardt near

Barh The reference here is to Khushal Chand, son of Mahtab Rai and Udwat Chand, son of Swarup Chand Their claims were admitted by the Directors on 16 May 1768 Nandalal Chatterji, *Mir Qasim*, p 45 ff, *Bengal Past and Present*, Vol XXII, pp 80-9, 99-101

3 **Mr. Rumbold was admitted to a seat in Council** (p 453)—Thomas Rumbold who entered the Company's service as a writer at Madras in 1752 and was later transferred to Bengal, served as a member of the Council from 1766 to 1769 He entered Parliament in 1770, and became a Director of the Company for 1772 and 1775-7 He was Governor of Madras from February 1778 to April 1780 Sutherland, *op cit*, pp 213-4

4 **Mr. Duffield and Mr. Robertson** (p 454)—Capt Vernon Duffield and Lt Francis Robertson stationed at Bankipore were cashiered and sent home for their part in the 'batta mutiny' of 1766 Duffield came out again to India in 1775 but was captured when in disguise at Patna Robertson, however, was reinstated in 1776 with the rank of Captain and he rose to be a Lt Col in 1787

5 **restricting the future Governors . . . interest** (p 462)—Clive was allowed the commission on *Diwani* revenues for having relinquished his five shares in the capital stock of the Society of Trade and it was continued to Verelst till 1767 when it was stopped by the Court's orders dated 20 November 1767 The Governor and Council were, however, compensated for the ban on private inland trade by a commission of 2½ per cent on the Company's total Bengal revenues (minus due deductions) of which the Governor was entitled to 31/100th share Banerjee, *op cit*, p 140 ff

#### No. 34—5 December 1766

1 **his wild ambition** (p 474)—When the English refused the military aid wanted by Shah Alam for achieving his 'wild ambition' of seating himself on the throne of Delhi, he sought the assistance of Malharrao Holkar, promising him in return the cession of Allahabad and Kora districts The negotiations, however, broke down due to intense English hostility to the enterprise Srivastava, *op cit*, II, pp 27-8



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